



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

Deputy Administrator

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

October 10, 2008

The Honorable Bernard Sanders
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

NVS-216 nlm
Ref. # 10243668

Dear Senator Sanders:

Thank you for your correspondence dated September 15 on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] contacted your office concerning the rusted frame on her model year (MY) 2001 Toyota Tacoma.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is the Federal agency responsible for improving safety on our Nation's highways. We are authorized to order manufacturers to recall and repair vehicles or items of motor vehicle equipment when our investigations indicate that they contain safety defects in their design, construction, or performance. We also monitor the adequacy of manufacturers' recall campaigns.

We appreciate the report you provided on behalf of [REDACTED]. Reports from motorists are a very important source of information for us. We have reviewed our database in an effort to identify whether a safety defect trend exists with regard to frame rust in MY 2001 Toyota Tacoma vehicles. Although our review does not warrant the opening of a safety defect investigation at this time, we continually review all available data to determine whether an investigation may be warranted.

Regarding [REDACTED]'s assertion that Toyota should provide her with the same "Buy Back" offer as 1995-2000 Toyota Tacoma owners received under a warranty extension, please be advised that such requests are not within our jurisdiction. We recommend that [REDACTED] continue to work with Toyota to resolve her concerns or contact the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). The FTC has jurisdiction over non-safety defects, paint, fraud or deception, warranty and dealership problems, remuneration matters, and fair trade practices. [REDACTED] can contact



ES08-006066

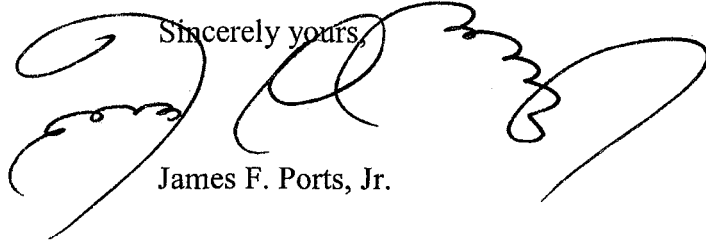
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the FTC by toll free telephone at 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357); by mail at Federal Trade Commission, CRC-240, Washington, DC 20580; and by using the Internet complaint form at <http://www.ftc.gov/ftc/complaint.htm>.

I hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions, please have your staff contact me or Mr. Ronald L. Medford, Senior Associate Administrator for Vehicle Safety at (202) 366-9700.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James F. Ports, Jr.", written over the typed name below.

James F. Ports, Jr.