



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE.
Washington, DC 20590

November 3, 2008

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Seattle, WA [REDACTED]

NVS-216 mec
Ref. # 10244870

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your correspondence dated March 14, 2008, concerning your model year (MY) 2003 Subaru Impreza WRX vehicle. The New Jersey Office of the Attorney General forwarded your correspondence to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). It was received by NHTSA's Office of Defects Investigation on October 8, 2008.

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. However, we cannot act on isolated problems or resolve disputes between individual owners, dealers, or manufacturers.

We appreciate the report you provided. Reports from motorists are a very important source of information for us. On January 7, 2004, ODI opened an investigation (PE04-002) involving MY 2002 and early 2003 Subaru Impreza WRX vehicles, concerning gasoline odor in the passenger and engine compartments during extreme cold temperature vehicle start up. On May 27, 2004, ODI closed PE04-002 without the determination that a safety-related defect exists. A recent review of our database revealed insufficient evidence to warrant reopening PE04-002 at this time; however, we will continue to monitor this issue. The information you provided has been entered into our database and will be considered with future reports to identify any safety defect trends that may require our attention.

NHTSA is aware of Subaru's Technical Service Bulletin (TSB) for fuel smell in cold weather involving certain MY 2002 Subaru Impreza WRX (2.0L turbo) vehicles. However, the issuance of the TSB does not constitute a finding of a safety-related defect within the meaning of our authorizing statute. Neither Subaru nor NHTSA has determined that the vehicles in question contain such a defect. Therefore, NHTSA cannot require Subaru to perform the corrective action described in the TSB at no cost.



Should you encounter a safety-related problem with a motor vehicle or item of motor vehicle equipment in the future, you can complete an electronic Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire online at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/ivoq>. Also, a summary listing of vehicle owners' complaints, safety recalls, manufacturers' service bulletins, etc. can be obtained at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/problems>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank S. Borris II". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "F" and "S".

Frank S. Borris II, Chief
Correspondence Research Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement