



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

Deputy Administrator

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

November 6, 2008

The Honorable Elizabeth Dole
United States Senator
310 New Bern Avenue, Suite 122
Raleigh, NC 27601

NVS-216 et
Ref. # 10247048

Dear Senator Dole:

Thank you for your correspondence dated October 6, on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] wrote concerning a fueling problem she encountered on her model year (MY) 2000 Saturn SW2 (S-series) vehicle.

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. In order for the agency to initiate an investigation, we look carefully at the body of consumer complaints and other available data to determine whether a defect may exist.

We appreciate the report you provided on behalf of [REDACTED]. Reports from motorists are a very important source of information for us. [REDACTED] indicated that she was provided information on NHTSA safety recall 00V-309 (summary enclosed) that includes MY 2000 and MY 2001 S-series vehicles. However, according to the information submitted by Saturn, the vehicle identification number for [REDACTED]'s vehicle is not included in the range of vehicles recalled. The defect described in the safety recall involves an inadequate vent valve weld on the top portion of the fuel tank. This could result in fuel spillage during refueling or in the event of a rollover. This differs from the fuel system problem [REDACTED] described in her letter. It appears that her issue is related to the operation of the vehicle Onboard Refueling and Vapor Recovery system (ORVR, description enclosed). We reviewed our database in an effort to identify whether a safety defect trend exists with regard to ORVR system problems in MY 2000 Saturn S-series vehicles and found no evidence of a safety defect trend. Although we are not opening a safety defect investigation at this time, we continually review all available data to determine

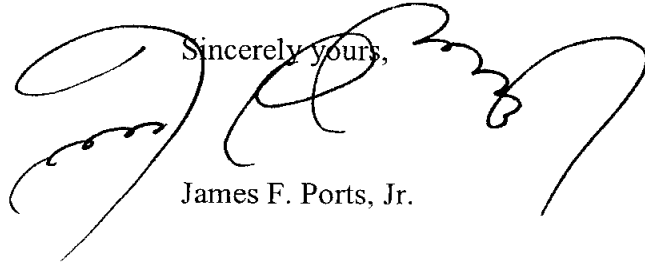
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whether an investigation may be warranted. The information you provided has been entered into our database. It will be considered with future reports to identify any safety defect trends that may require our attention.

If you have any questions regarding our jurisdiction or if your constituent has other issues with her vehicle that she believes to be safety-related, 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 'J. Ports, Jr.', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end.

James F. Ports, Jr.

Enclosures

cc: Washington Office