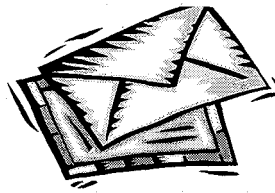


NHTSA ccmMercury Routing Slip

CL-10257848-2280



Printed: 1/29/2009

NHTSA #: ES09-000477**XREF #:****Delivery: MESSENGER ENV.****Rec'd Date: 1/29/2009****Doc Type: CNG****Address To:****Referred By: NPO-011****Doc Date: 1/14/2009****Due Date: 2/9/2009****S10 #:****DOT/I #: 2009-1017****RMP #:****Subject: LTR FROM SENATOR MURKOWSKI ON BEHALF OF [REDACTED] WHO HAS CONCERNS RE THE SAFETY OF THE 2005 VW PASSAT TDI STATION WAGON (DOT/I#2009-1017)****Ack Date:****Sign Office: ACTING DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR****Cleared Date:****File Loc:****Added By: BMILLINGS x65470****Ack By:****Signature: RONALD MEDFORD****Cleared By:****XREF File:****Modified By:****BERNADETTE.MILLINGS****Signed For:****Cleared For:****Closed Date:****Most Recent Comment:****Author:**THE HONORABLE LISA MURKOWSKI
UNITED STATE SENATE

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

Tel: Fax: E-mail:

Assigned To	Task	Asgn Date	Deadline	Returned Date
NVS-200	REPLY	1/29/2009	2/9/2009	
NVS-010	INFORMATION	1/29/2009		1/29/2009
I10	INFORMATION	1/29/2009		1/29/2009
NPO-011	INFORMATION	1/29/2009		1/29/2009
NIA-110	INFORMATION	1/29/2009		1/29/2009
NIA-110	INFORMATION	1/29/2009		1/29/2009

2009 FEB-2 AM 10:07

MC
10:07
2/2/09
WJ

LISA MURKOWSKI

ALASKA

COMMITTEES:

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
RANKING MEMBER
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY

FOREIGN RELATIONS
RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS

HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS

INDIAN AFFAIRS
VICE-CHAIRMAN

PH 18A - 2009-1017
United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0203

(202) 224-6665
(202) 224-5301 FAX

January 14, 2009

510 L STREET, SUITE 550
ANCHORAGE, AK 99501-1956
(907) 271-3735

101 12TH AVENUE, ROOM 216
FAIRBANKS, AK 99701-6278
(907) 456-0233

P.O. BOX 21247
JUNEAU, AK 99802
(907) 586-7400

110 TRADING BAY ROAD, SUITE 105
KENAI, AK 99611-7716
(907) 283-5808

540 WATER STREET, SUITE 101
KETCHIKAN, AK 99901-6378
(907) 225-6880

851 EAST WESTPOINT DRIVE, SUITE 307
WASILLA, AK 99654-7142
(907) 376-7665

P.O. BOX 1030
311 WILLOW STREET, BUILDING 3
BETHEL, AK 99559-1030
(907) 543-1639

Mr. Simon Gros
Acting Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affair
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear Simon:

Please find enclosed a copy of a letter I recently received from one of my constituents, [REDACTED] of Anchorage, Alaska. [REDACTED] has some concerns regarding the safety of a vehicle he has purchased. I would appreciate your review of his concerns and any assistance you might be able to provide him in resolving them.

Please send your reply to my Washington, D.C. office. For administrative purposes, please reference [REDACTED] and the date of his letter to me in your response. Thank you in advance for your careful attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator

Enclosure

ES09-000477

E-Mail Viewer

Message

Details

Attachments

Headers

Source

HTML

From: "nobody@murkowski.senate.gov" <nobody@murkowski.senate.gov>
Date: 10/24/2008 9:29:40 PM
To: "Webmail@murkowski-iq.senate.gov" <Webmail@murkowski-iq.senate.gov>
Cc:
Subject: WebMail Received

<APP>SCCMail
<IP>24.237.120.37</IP>
<PREFIX>Mr.</PREFIX>
<FIRST>[REDACTED]</FIRST>
<LAST>[REDACTED]</LAST>
<ADDR1>[REDACTED]</ADDR1>
<ADDR2></ADDR2>
<CITY>Anchorage</CITY>
<STATE>AK</STATE>
<ZIP>[REDACTED]</ZIP>
<PHONE_H></PHONE_H>
<PHONE_B>[REDACTED]</PHONE_B>
<EMAIL>[REDACTED]</EMAIL>
<ISSUE>Other</ISSUE>
<MSG>Dear Senator Murkowski,

I would like help on a problem, and am hoping that your office can help or direct me to where I can get help.

Three years ago, recognizing that fuel prices were going up dramatically and that my wife and I needed to change our situation, we bought a very fuel efficient VW diesel station wagon to replace an SUV. Specially the car we bought is a 2005 VW, Passat TDI station wagon.

It turns out that VW had a design issue within the engine (model BHW) of this vehicle. I belong to a group of VW enthusiasts who bought the same vehicle (sedan and wagon), and they are reporting that virtually 100% are experience this problem at anywhere from 60 to 130,000 miles. Normally the diesels are good for 250 to 300,000 easily in this class auto.

The issue in of itself is an odd one (though you have to be into design and function to fully appreciate it). VW used an unusual combination of a chain driven oil pump (normally gear drive) , and associated with that, a counter balancer (also normally gear driven) to reduce vibration in the diesel engine. The oil chain is prone to failure, and the balancer shaft is not a tight enough fit, and over time, wallows out. Both of these can lead to catastrophic failures if not addressed.

The diesel engine with this setup is fairly limited numbers, as it was brought into the US only in 2004 and 2005. Some were also sold in Canada.

Not only is the repair costly (\$3,000 to 6,000) there is no real fix for the issue, they just replace with the same parts. That means it will occur again in the same time frames. We have not been able to correlate failures to any type of situation.

That means it could take place even sooner the second time (the norm looks to be 80-100,000 miles).

To access this requires major removal of parts on the front of car and the engine, and that alone is very costly, as well as the parts themselves.

We are such a small total number that we are not getting traction or attention. I am thinking that NHW might be able to force this issue. Its certainly a safety issue as failure of the oil pump chain or the balancer shaft blows up the front of the engine causing immediate engine failure. If that is at highway speeds it would be disastrous.

Again, your help would be most appreciated and I can add any additional details that are required.

Sincerely Yours

[REDACTED] </MSG>
</APP>

Close

26-Jan-09

2009 Senate Report - Governmental Affairs Correspondence
Control Sheet (I-1) W85-328

Control Number: 2009 — 1017
Date DOT Received: 1/26/2009
Date DOT Entered: 1/26/2009
Member's Date: 1/14/2009
Member Last Name: Murkowski
Member First Name: Lisa
Member Organization: United States Senate
Address1:
Address2:
City: Washington
State: DC
Zip: 20510
Constituent File Name: [REDACTED]
Constituent Date:
Action Office: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Subject: the safety of a vehicle he has purchased

Action Office Code: NHTSA
Due Date: 2 /23/2009
Member Contact: Arne Fuglvog
Pending: Yes
Member Contact Phone: (202) 224-6665
Closed Date:
Remarks:
Direct Reply/Comeback Copy: Yes
Congressional Affairs Contact Maria Harrison at (202) 366-4573