



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

May 15, 2009

The Honorable John M. McHugh
Member, U.S. House of Representatives
14 Durkee Street, Suite 320
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

NVS-216 et
Ref. # 10266928

Dear Congressman McHugh:

Thank you for your correspondence dated March 19 on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] contacted your office concerning problems he encountered in his model year (MY) 2004 Jeep Liberty vehicle. The Federal Trade Commission referred your letter to this agency for a response.

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. In his letter, [REDACTED] expressed concern that his MY 2004 Jeep Liberty needed two oxygen sensor replacements and repairs for a power steering fluid leak when the vehicle had been driven only 40,000 miles. Additionally, [REDACTED] was concerned that approximately one week after having a routine tire rotation performed at a Chrysler dealership the vehicle's left front wheel fell off while traveling.

We have reviewed our database in an effort to identify whether a safety defect trend exists with regard to power steering fluid leaks, oxygen sensor problems, or wheels in MY 2004 Jeep Liberty vehicles. We found no indication that a defect trend exists with regard to any of those issues. Although we are not opening an investigation at this time, we continually review all available data to determine whether an investigation may be warranted. The information you

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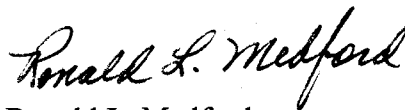
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provided has been entered into our database and will be considered with future reports to identify any safety defect trends that may require our attention.

With regard to [REDACTED] belief that the previous vehicle service may be connected to the wheel failure he encountered, we recommend, if he has not done so already, that he contact his local Consumer Protection Agency or Better Business Bureau because dealership repair issues do not fall under our jurisdiction.

I hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions, please contact me or Mr. Daniel C. Smith, Associate Administrator for Enforcement, at (202) 366-3217.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ronald L. Medford".

Ronald L. Medford
Acting Deputy Administrator

cc: Washington Office