



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE.
Washington, DC 20590

February 16, 2011

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senator
1700 Montgomery Street, Suite 240
San Francisco, CA 94111

NVS-216 nlm
Ref. No. 10313301

Dear Senator Boxer:

Thank you for your correspondence on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] wrote concerning his model year (MY) 2006 Toyota Corolla 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 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. 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 cannot act on isolated problems or resolve disputes between individual owners, dealers, or manufacturers.

We appreciate the report you provided on behalf of [REDACTED]. Reports from motorists are a very important source of information for us. In [REDACTED] correspondence, he indicated that he filed an online complaint with NHTSA which we located under complaint No. 10313301. Information submitted by owners via the Internet is automatically entered into our complaint database. NHTSA's Office of Defects Investigation reviews and analyzes the data to determine whether an investigation is warranted. If NHTSA determines it necessary to gather additional information, we will contact the vehicle owner. Otherwise the information is entered into our database and used to identify safety-related defect trends. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

In his correspondence, [REDACTED] indicates that he experienced unintended acceleration while driving his MY 2006 Toyota Corolla. He also stated that the steering and brake systems malfunctioned causing his vehicle to crash into another vehicle. Further he stated his air bags

Page 2

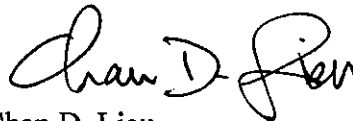
The Honorable Barbara Boxer

failed to deploy on impact and that his vehicle has a history of electrical control module failures. He asked whether the tires could have contributed to the crash. [REDACTED] vehicle was inspected by Toyota Motor Company, but he believes that Toyota did not inspect it thoroughly because only the brake pads and floor mats were inspected. He requests that NHTSA inspect his vehicle.

We regret the problems [REDACTED] reported and understand his concern. We reviewed our database in an effort to identify whether a safety defect trend exists with regard to unintended acceleration, steering, brake, air bag non deployment, tire and electronic control module problems in MY 2006 Toyota Corolla vehicles. At this time, there is insufficient evidence to warrant opening a safety defect investigation. The information 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.

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

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chan D. Lieu". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chan" and last name "Lieu" clearly legible.

Chan D. Lieu
Director, Governmental Affairs,
Policy and Strategic Planning

cc: Washington Office