



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

March 20, 2013

The Honorable C.W. Bill Young
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

NVS-216 et
Ref. No. 10318626

Dear Congressman Young:

Thank you for your correspondence on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED] who wrote concerning Blue Bird motorhomes.

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 trend may exist.

[REDACTED] indicates that NHTSA has an open defect investigation on Blue Bird motorhomes. In addition, he indicates that NHTSA received 17 owner reports regarding a recall that failed including proof that some motorhomes were overweight.

On November 30, 2009, NHTSA's Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) opened a defect petition 09-006 (resume enclosed) at the request of a Blue Bird motorhome owner. The owner alleged that there were deficiencies in NHTSA Safety Recall Campaign No. 07V-586 resulting in diminished cargo capacity (summary enclosed). The recall addresses a problem with defective front axle tie rod assemblies and the front axle curb weight may exceed the 16,000 pound weight rating in certain MY 2005 through MY 2007 Blue Bird motorhomes.

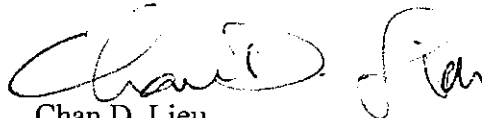
ODI staff has contacted [REDACTED] regarding his concerns with the recall and our investigation into Blue Bird motorhomes. Defect petition 09-006 is a very complex investigation that has required considerable time. Our investigation continues and no determinations have been reached at this time. The information you provided on behalf of [REDACTED] has been entered into our database. It will be considered with future reports to identify any safety defect trends that may require our attention.

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I hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions, please contact me or Ms. Nancy L. Lewis, Associate Administrator for Enforcement, at (202) 366-3217.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chan D. Lieu". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "L".

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

Enclosures