

NVS-200



**INFORMATION Redacted PURSUANT TO THE FREEDOM OF
INFORMATION ACT (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552(B)(6)**

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

Administrator

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

June 28, 2010

The Honorable Jim DeMint
United States Senator
1901 Main Street, Suite 1475
Columbia, SC 29201

NVS-216 mec
Ref. No. 10328492

Dear Senator DeMint:

Thank you for your recent correspondence on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] wrote your office concerning his model year (MY) 2008 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 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 [REDACTED] letter he indicated his wife was parking their vehicle when it accelerated "on its own" causing the vehicle to go over a concrete curb. As a result, the crash caused damage to four tires, the under carriage and front end of the vehicle. [REDACTED] believes that the recent Toyota recalls should apply to his Toyota Corolla and all Toyota Corollas. He is also requesting reimbursement from Toyota for the repair costs he incurred. We assume [REDACTED] is speaking about the recalls initiated by Toyota that address unintended acceleration in certain vehicles. For your information, the MY 2008 Toyota Corolla vehicle is not involved in the accelerator pedal floor mat entrapment or sticky pedal recalls.

NHTSA has opened a recall query (RQ10-003, summary enclosed) requesting additional information from Toyota to more fully understand and evaluate, among other things, whether the scope of the recalls identified (makes, models, and model years) is sufficiently broad.

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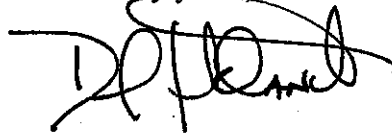
NHTSA is now undertaking a comprehensive look into the safety of electronic throttle control (ETC) systems in all vehicles sold in the United States equipped with that technology. The agency has procured help from scientists and other experts in areas such as computer controlled electronic systems, electromagnetic interference, and software integrity from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to conduct a short-term review of ETC systems used in Toyota vehicles to determine whether they contain any possible flaws that could cause unintended acceleration. NASA's expertise in electronics, hardware, software, hazard analysis and complex problem solving ensures this review will be comprehensive. The NASA review of the ETC systems in Toyota vehicles should be completed by late summer.

In addition, the prestigious National Academy of Sciences will examine the broad subject of unintended acceleration and electronic vehicle controls across the entire automotive industry. This will not be limited to Toyota, but will cover all vehicle manufacturers. The panel will make recommendations to NHTSA on how its rulemaking, research, and defects investigation activities may be enhanced to ensure the safety of electronic control systems in motor vehicles. If either study should identify a potential safety-related defect, an investigation will be opened.

We sympathize with [REDACTED] concerning his request for reimbursement for the repair costs he incurred; however, NHTSA does not have the jurisdiction to intervene in disputes between individuals and manufacturers or dealers. If he has not done so, he may consider contacting his local Consumer Protection Agency, Better Business Bureau, or the South Carolina Office of the Attorney General regarding his request.

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 black ink, appearing to read 'D. Strickland', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David L. Strickland

Enclosure

cc: Washington Office