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**Subject: LETTER FROM SENATOR MERKLEY ON BEHALF OF CONSTITUENT [REDACTED] RE A
DEFECT IN HONDA VEHICLES
(RESPOND DIRECTLY TO CONSTITUENT)**

Ack Date:

Sign Office: ADMINISTRATOR

Cleared Date:

File Loc:

Added By: BMILLINGS x65470

Ack By:

Signature: STRICKLAND

Cleared By:

XREF File:

Modified By:

BERNADETTE.MILLINGS

Signed For:

Cleared For:

Closed Date:

Most Recent Comment:

Author:

THE HONORABLE JEFF MERKLEY
UNITED STATES SENATOR

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

Tel: Fax: E-mail:

CL-10328534-4435

Assigned To	Task	Asgn Date	Deadline	Returned Date
NVS-200	REPLY	4/28/2010	5/7/2010	
NVS-010	INFORMATION	4/28/2010		4/28/2010
NIA-110	INFORMATION	4/28/2010		4/28/2010
NOA-010	INFORMATION	4/28/2010		4/28/2010
NOA02	INFORMATION	4/28/2010		4/28/2010
NPO-011	INFORMATION	4/28/2010		4/28/2010

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APR 28 A 11:25
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ET
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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
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LABOR, AND PENSIONS
BANKING, HOUSING,
AND URBAN AFFAIRS
BUDGET

April 15, 2010

David Strickland
Adminstrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
West Building
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear David,

I am writing on behalf of my constituent, [REDACTED] of Junction City, Oregon.

I would appreciate it if you would review the enclosed information and respond directly to my constituent at:

[REDACTED]
Junction City, Oregon [REDACTED]

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

All my best,


Jeff Merkley
United States Senate

Enclosure

JM/ks

ES10-002990

John Mendel, Executive Vice President
American Honda Inc.
1919 Torrance Blvd, Mail Stop: 500-2N-7D
Torrance, CA 90501-7724

Dear Mr. Mendel:

Over the course of several weeks, I have made repeated efforts to inform Honda Motors of a potentially fatal defect in its automobiles. These efforts have been ignored. As a result, I write this letter to you and those copied herein in order to again inform Honda Motors of this very urgent matter, to obtain confirmation that Honda recognizes the seriousness of this problem, and to receive assurance that Honda has taken steps to acknowledge and rectify a design defect that nearly claimed the life of my wife and may have taken the lives of others. I have already reported this event to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Department of Transportation.

On January 20, 2010, my wife was driving our 2007 Honda Accord eastbound in Junction City, Oregon. She was within 5 feet of her stop sign with the intent to make a right turn when she was struck head-on by $\frac{3}{4}$ ton Dodge pickup and the force of the impact pushed my wife's vehicle 65 feet backward. My wife suffered a fractured sternum and laceration on her left leg. I wouldn't even want to think what might have happened if she hadn't been wearing her seatbelt. The vehicle repair costs are in excess of \$10,000 at the current time. While the injuries my wife sustained appear inevitable in an accident of this type (it is my understand this is called a "soft" hit), most can be attributed to the failure of a basic safety feature mandated by Congress and standard on all Honda automobiles: the driver side airbag. For reasons that no one at Honda Motors seems willing to discuss and no one in your corporation appears willing to acknowledge, the driver side airbag on our 2007 Honda Accord failed to deploy during this collision. Airbag failure to deploy in these conditions raises questions about the integrity of this safety feature on Honda vehicles. While I do not profess to be an expert in the field of automotive engineering, I do have nearly 40 years of experience in commercial aircraft maintenance and can think of no reason other than design or manufacturing defect that would result in airbag

deployment failure in these circumstances. I strongly urge you to investigate this matter and to take immediate steps to rectify this problem in order to reduce the likelihood of additional avoidable injuries or fatalities to Americans who drive Honda vehicles. Millions of Americans who drive Honda vehicles may be at risk.

I am deeply disappointed Honda has chosen to ignore my repeated efforts to discuss this matter. I look forward to receiving a prompt if belated reply that is responsive to concerns raised in this letter. In the interim, I will continue to coordinate with my congressional delegation and others until my concerns are fully addressed by Honda Motors.

Sincerely,

15/

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Junction City, OR [REDACTED]

Cc: The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senator
23 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeff Merkley ✓
United States Senator
107 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
2134 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James L. Oberstar
Chairman. House Committee on Transportation
and National Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John L. Mica
Ranking Member
Attn: Jim Coon
House Committee on Transportation
and National Infrastructure
2163 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nelson Rockefeller IV
Chairman, Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science and Transportation
Russell Senate Office Building 254
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchinson
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on
Commerce, Science and Transportation
Dirksen Senate Office Building 560
Washington, DC 20510

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3705

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

J. Frey

A. Menkey

PRST STD

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Bt??TPI 20590

