



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

Administrator

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE.
Washington, DC 20590

June 30, 2010

[REDACTED]
Junction City, OR [REDACTED]

NVS-216 et
Ref. No. 10328534

Dear [REDACTED]:

Thank you for your correspondence concerning your model year (MY) 2007 Honda Accord. Senator Merkley referred your correspondence to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and asked that we respond directly to you.

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. Reports from motorists are a very important source of information for us. You indicated that while your wife drove your MY 2007 Honda Accord, she collided head-on with a Dodge pickup. The driver's side air bags did not deploy and your wife was injured. You made several attempts to contact the manufacturer regarding this problem but you have not received any response from Honda Motors. You also believe the airbag non-deployment is a potentially fatal defect that should be investigated.

We are sorry to hear of the incident involving your wife and understand your concern regarding the airbag non-deployment in your vehicle. A number of factors, other than crash severity, can affect whether an air bag will deploy in a given crash; e.g., the angle of impact, the speed of the other vehicle, and the amount of force absorbed by the other vehicle or object that is impacted. Only an expert in crash reconstruction can provide an educated opinion as to whether the air bag in a vehicle should have deployed in a specific crash.

In addition, we have reviewed our database in an effort to identify whether a safety defect trend exists with regard to air bag non-deployment during a crash event in MY 2007 Honda Accord vehicles. At this time, there is insufficient evidence to warrant opening a safety

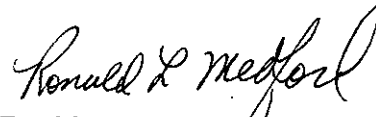
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defect investigation. The information you provided has been entered into our database. It will be considered with future reports to identify any safety defect trends that may require our attention.

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

Sincerely yours,

for 
David L. Strickland

cc: Senator Jeff A. Merkley