



**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**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE.  
Washington, DC 20590

September 20, 2010

The Honorable George S. LeMieux  
United States Senator  
201 South Orange Avenue, Suite 350  
Orlando, FL 32801

NVS-216 mec  
Ref. No. 10342652

Dear Senator LeMieux:

Thank you for your correspondence on behalf of you constituent, [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] wrote your office concerning a safety recall notice he received which addresses defective brake calipers in Workhorse Custom Chassis (Workhorse) recreational vehicles (RVs).

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, [REDACTED] is concerned with the lack of urgency from Workhorse he encountered with having NHTSA Recall Campaign No. 09V-110 completed, and the safety risk in operating his RV.

In April 2009, Navistar, the parent company of Workhorse, announced the recall of certain MY 2001 through MY 2008 Workhorse W20, W21, and W22 series RVs for a problem involving the hydraulic brakes. Owners with occasional or seasonal vehicle operation may experience brake calipers that stick in the applied position, which can increase the risk of a crash. [REDACTED] indicated he received the interim notification that was mailed to vehicle owners in May 2009, and an updated notification in December 2009. He feels too much time has passed for the recall remedy to still remain unresolved.

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The notifications stated that if vehicle owners encounter a failure of the brake calipers they should contact Workhorse to take appropriate action to repair one or more dragging brake calipers free of charge until the final remedy is available. The remedy involves the installation of new brake calipers. Workhorse has contracted with the Bosch Company, the original brake system manufacturer, to build the new improved caliper. Bosch had to rebuild the assembly line which had been previously discontinued. On September 8, Navistar informed NHTSA that they anticipated the new parts will be available within 2 weeks and owners will be notified prior to the end of the month to make an appointment to have the repairs completed.

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 "Chan D. Lieu". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chan" and last name "Lieu" clearly distinguishable.

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

cc: Washington Office