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INFORMATION ACT (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552(B)(6)

[REDACTED]  
Cape Coral, FL [REDACTED]

Mr. Randy Reid, Chief Correspondence Research Division  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Enforcement  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Reid,

I am responding to your letter dated March 6, 2012, NVS-216nlm, Ref. No. 10364752. In your letter you stated, "We cannot act on isolated problems or resolve disputes between individual owners, dealers, or manufacturers". What you do not seem to realize is that my problem with my 2010 Model DTS Cadillac is not unique to me. I have friends with a 2008 Cadillac and they must use the seat belt extenders on the back seat belts of their car. They were given the seat belt extenders by the Cadillac dealer from whom they purchased their car. So the problem of back seat passengers being unable to use the original seat belt extends back at least two years. Our friends are using the seat belt extenders even though the color of the extenders did not match the seat belts in their car. They are not too happy with the seat belt problem but had not taken the steps to write about them as I did.

My problem has been resolved as I also wrote to the Attorney General of Indiana. Through the efforts of the Attorney General of Indiana, the Cadillac dealer from whom I purchased my car agreed to reimburse me for the cost of extending the shank of the seat belt and securing the headrest that had to be turned backwards so the front seat passenger could sit in the front seat of the car comfortably. The work was done by an insured trained individual licensed to make such modifications.

When an agency of the US Government that is responsible for monitoring the safety of cars does not require automobile manufactures to produce usable seat belts in their products it is most unsettling. There must be many thousands of Cadillac cars being used with seat belt extenders or the back seat passengers being unable to use the seat belts and thus riding in a Cadillac in a most unsafe manner. I am very disappointed that it took your agency almost a year to respond to my letter!

I do not believe your agency has any idea as to how many Cadillac owners have had to accept seat belt extenders for the back seat belts of their cars. I am positive that is not an item that Cadillac dealers would want publicized.

NM  
041312  
TGW

Thank you for your attention to this matter.





Cape Coral, FL [redacted]

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