



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

Deputy Administrator

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

April 19, 2011

The Honorable Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator
22 S. Third Street, Suite 6A
Harrisburg, PA 17101

NVS-216 mec
Ref. No. 10385348

Dear Senator Casey:

Thank you for your correspondence on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] wrote your office concerning his model year (MY) 2001 Honda Passport 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 motor vehicle equipment when our investigations indicate that they contain safety defects in their design, construction, or performance. However, we cannot act on isolated problems or resolve disputes between individual owners, dealers, or manufacturers.

We appreciate the report you provided on behalf of [REDACTED]. Reports from motorists are a very important source of information for us. In [REDACTED] correspondence, he indicated he took his vehicle to a Honda dealer to have the recall remedy for NHTSA Recall Campaign No. 10V-436 performed on his vehicle. The recall instructs dealers to visually inspect the vehicle's frame for excessive corrosion. If the corrosion is excessive, dealers are to see if they can punch a hole in the frame using a hammer and a 9-inch flat punch at specific locations on the frame. According to [REDACTED] this procedure opened a 3 inch hole in the frame of his vehicle, rendering it unsafe to drive. Stage 3 of the recall remedy involves installing a reinforcement bracket to strengthen the area around any holes created by rust corrosion or frame integrity test. [REDACTED] says his vehicle will not pass Pennsylvania's State vehicle inspection due to the 3 inch hole remaining in the frame even though the recall remedy has been completed. [REDACTED] wants Honda to repair his vehicle so that it can pass Pennsylvania's State vehicle inspection or buy back his vehicle.

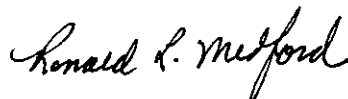
The Honorable Robert P. Casey, Jr.

We reviewed our database in an effort to identify whether an issue exists with regard to the remedy for NHTSA Recall Campaign No. 10V-436 and how it was performed on [REDACTED] vehicle. At this time there is insufficient evidence to warrant opening a safety defect investigation into the adequacy of NHTSA Recall Campaign No. 10V-436. [REDACTED] information has been entered into our database and will be considered with future reports to identify any safety defect trends that may require our attention. A brochure explaining the investigation process is enclosed for [REDACTED] information or he may visit our web site at www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/recalls/recallprocess.cfm.

[REDACTED] requests that Honda repair his frame or buy his vehicle back. The National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act requires a manufacturer to provide a remedy of the noncompliance or safety-related defect without charge to the owner. We do not have authority over what individual States require for purposes of their inspections. We recommend that [REDACTED] continue to work with Honda regarding the recall remedy or to see if his vehicle qualifies for the repurchase provision of NHTSA Recall Campaign No. 10V-436.

I hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions, please have your staff contact Mr. Chan D. Lieu, Director, Governmental Affairs, Policy and Strategic Planning or Mr. Claude H. Harris, Acting Associate Administrator for Enforcement at (202) 366-3217.

Sincerely yours,



Ronald L. Medford

Enclosure

cc: Washington Office