



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE.
Washington, DC 20590

June 16, 2011

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
Member, U.S. House of Representatives
117 South Lewis Street, Suite 215
Staunton, VA 24401

NVS-216 et
Ref. No. 10395833

Dear Congressman Goodlatte:

Thank you for your correspondence on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED].
[REDACTED] wrote your office concerning his model year (MY) 2004 Honda Pilot 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.

We appreciate the report you provided on behalf of [REDACTED]. Reports from motorists are a very important source of information for us. [REDACTED] filed a complaint with NHTSA, which we located under complaint No. 10395833. Information submitted by owners is automatically entered into our complaint database. NHTSA's Office of Defects Investigation reviews and analyzes the data to determine whether an investigation is warranted. If necessary we will follow up and contact the vehicle owner.

[REDACTED] encountered an ignition switch interlock failure in his MY 2004 Honda Pilot. This problem can allow the vehicle to roll away unexpectedly if the transmission is not in the park position before the ignition key is turned to the off position. He discovered that a similar problem occurred in certain Honda vehicles and was addressed under NHTSA Safety Recall Campaign No. 10V-364. He believes his vehicle should be eligible for the recall; however, Honda informed him that MY 2004 Honda Pilots are not included in the recall. A local Honda dealer provided Mr. Carey an estimate of \$400 to \$500 to repair his vehicle.

We reviewed our database to identify whether a safety defect trend exists with regard to ignition switch interlock problems in MY 2004 Honda Pilot vehicles and find that there is insufficient evidence to warrant opening a safety investigation. Although we are not opening an investigation into the scope of the recall campaign at this time, we continually review all available data to determine whether an investigation may be warranted.



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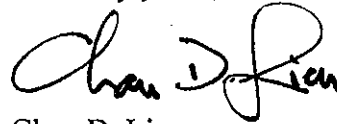
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Our decision to open or not open an investigation or expand the scope of a recall is not based solely on the presence of consumer complaints. NHTSA has opened many defect investigations with only a limited number of complaints. We also take into account the severity of the potential safety risk to motorists. NHTSA considers field experience and other technical information about each particular issue. Our decision to not open an investigation at this time is based on a review of field data of previous investigations and recalls for similar problems.

I hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions, please contact me or Mr. Claude H. Harris, Acting 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" being clearly legible.

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

cc: Washington Office