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Delivery: EML	Address To: NIA110	Due Date: 10/5/2011
S10 #:	DOT/I #:	RMP #: [REDACTED]
Subject: LETTER FROM CONGRESSMAN YARMUTH ON BEHALF OF CONSTITUENT, RE PROBLEMS WITH HIS 2011 E-150 FORD VAN WAGON		
Ack Date:	Ack By:	Signed For:
Sign Office: DIR. GOVT. AFFAIRS	Signature: CHAN LIEU	
Cleared Date:	Cleared By:	Cleared For:
File Loc:	XREF File:	Closed Date:
Added By: BMILLINGS x65470	Modified By: BERNADETTE.MILLINGS	
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Author:

THE HONORABLE JOHN A YARMUTH
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

Tel: Fax: E-mail:

Assigned To	Task	Asgn Date	Deadline	Returned Date
NVS-200	REPLY	9/6/2011	10/5/2011	
NVS-010	INFORMATION	9/6/2011		9/6/2011
NIA-110	INFORMATION	9/6/2011		9/6/2011

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JOHN A. YARMUTH
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
3RD DISTRICT, KENTUCKY

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT
AND GOVERNMENT REFORM



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1703

435 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
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ROMANO MAZZOLI FEDERAL BUILDING
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LOUISVILLE, KY 40202
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SOUTHWEST GOVERNMENT CENTER
7219 DIXIE HIGHWAY
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FAX (502) 933-6934

September 6, 2011

Mr. Chan Lieu
Director of Governmental Affairs
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
West Building
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Lieu,

I have recently been contacted by my constituent, [REDACTED] who has asked me to make an inquiry regarding a situation he is experiencing which falls under the jurisdiction of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Please find attached copies of all correspondence received in my office.

Please review and extend every consideration to this request. Also, please inform Brooke Pardue in my office at (502) 582-5129 of the status and of any action taken on my constituent's behalf. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

John Yarmuth
Member of Congress

2168859

August 5, 2011

FAX ONLY
(202) 225-5776

REP JOHN YARMUTH
US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
435 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BLDG
WASHINGTON DC 20515

Dear Rep. Yarmuth:

I happen to own a 2011 E-150 Ford Van Wagon manufactured in Ohio. Of course, had this van been manufactured in Kentucky it would have been perfect.

Since delivery of this new van, I have experienced extreme severe sway problems. A complaint was registered with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in Washington DC. This van cannot safely be driver over 45 mph. Presently, the van is sitting idle and has only 1,000 miles on the vehicle.

I suspect there were no significant changes between the 2010 and 2011 model. There were two near death experiences reported by the consumer with the 2010 E-150 that experienced the same "sway" issues. All of those circumstances were identical to what I have experienced.

Dealership technicians, a Ford engineer, the dealership service manager and the dealership shop foreman all have confirmed that the sway problem is a symptom of all E-150 2011 vans. I suspect a Service Bulletin NHTSA Item 1032624 is not a solution as the problem is not caused by tires or the steering gearbox but rather the anti-sway bar is undersized and grossly defective. "Sway" is very prominent at 75 mph and of course someone is going to die.

Please see the attached, which a fax directed to Mr. Frank Borris and Mr. Roger Saul. Information has developed that there is a defect with all E-150 vans, model years 2010 and 2011 and perhaps other year models. Everyone in my family is too afraid to drive this van. An employee at NHTSA indicated that if it was his van he would not drive it.

I believe any one of your staff members can handle this based on a request over your signature to conduct a rigorous driving test on the E-150 2011 model. This means a simple test drive should verify extreme dangerous sway. This type of test would not take a lot of time and would not be a drain of NHTSA resources.

August 5, 2011
Rep. John Yarmuth

Page 2 of 2

So far, I have been very impressed with NHTSA as from what I can tell, all of the information I have provided has been well received. As to budget cuts, this should be the last agency affected because it is the only protection a consumer has against large well-financed automobile manufacturers.

Had this vehicle been manufactured in Kentucky, rest assured I would have already met with the plant manager.

[REDACTED] consideration as to my request.

Louisville KY
[REDACTED]

cc: **FAX ONLY**
582-5897
REP JOHN YARMUTH
ROMANO MAZZOLI FEDERAL BLDG
600 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. PL STE 216
LOUISVILLE KY 40202

2169684
Brooke Shelley
8124111

August 24, 2011

FAX ONLY
(202) 225-5776

REP JOHN YARMUTH
US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
435 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BLDG
WASHINGTON DC 20515

Dear Rep. Yarmuth:

I know that you are on break from the Senate; however, life goes on for everyone else. Also, I am sure your staff is fully capable of handling my request as outlined in my fax to you of August 5.

I purchased a 2011 Ford Van Wagon that cost approximately \$32,000.00. I paid cash and I have been unable to use the van safely since it was purchased.

I have provided NHTSA with a lot of information as to the "body roll" problems that are inherent of all 2010 and 2011 E-150 Cargo Vans. These vans are also used as passenger vehicles for schoolchildren and churches.

As you know Ford Motor Company is located in Louisville KY and has several plants. I have owned nothing but E-150 Ford Van Wagons over the last 30 years. There is no family in America that has more driving experience with the E-150 Ford Van Wagon XL's than my family and I.

For the technicians at NHTSA to confirm "body roll" all they have to do is test drive any E-150 Ford Van Wagon or Cargo Van, take it up to 70 mph and then start jerking the steering the wheel.

The suspension is inadequate and the body on top of the wheel frame moves whereas the body tracks. For example, traveling down the highway at 70 mph the suspension cannot handle the wind resistance or any cross wind at all. The body of the van shifts, let's say toward the ditch in the road, whereas the platform underneath tracks true.

The driver panics and makes a hard jerk on the steering wheel to the left. The driver believes he is headed towards the ditch when he is not. It is just the wind pushing the body towards the ditch. At 70 mph one panics and then when the wheel is jerked to the left it is over-steer and this is what causes the van, which is top heavy to capsize and tumble down the highway. This has been confirmed by five suspension specialists and a certified Ford mechanic.

August 24, 2011
Rep. John Yarmuth

Page 2 of 2

It would take very little money and effort for a technician to test drive an E-150 van. All that is required is to take it up to 75 mph and jerk the steering wheel and the body roll will be simulated.

The sway bars holding the body in place are undersized. I have a towing package and when body roll is experienced you cannot tow anything because whatever you are towing it is like crack the whip when you are trying to fight body roll and then my boat behind me either ends up in a ditch or into ongoing traffic because the wheelbase on a 2-lane road only has a margin of error of about six inches.

I cannot enjoy the beautiful Kentucky lakes because I cannot pull my 20-year old fishing boat safely.

I would appreciate if your office would make the request to test drive the E-150 van for body roll

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Louisville KY
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

cc: FAX ONLY
582-5897
REP JOHN YARMUTH
ROMANO MAZZOLI FEDERAL BLDG
600 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR PL STE 216
LOUISVILLE KY 40202

Millings, Bernadette (NHTSA)

From: Lieu, Chan (NHTSA)
Sent: Tuesday, September 06, 2011 1:25 PM
To: Millings, Bernadette (NHTSA)
Cc: Caldwell, Megan (NHTSA)
Subject: Fwd: [REDACTED] Case
Attachments: [REDACTED] ATT00001..htm

Please control, thanks.

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Pardue, Brooke" <Brooke.Pardue@mail.house.gov>
Date: September 6, 2011 1:21:05 PM EDT
To: "Lieu, Chan (NHTSA)" <chan.lieu@dot.gov>
Subject: [REDACTED] Case

Hi Chan – thanks so much for taking the time to talk with me earlier. Attached is the letter from the Congressman, and the correspondence from our constituent. You can certainly attach your official response to an email back to me...or fax, if you wish.

Let me know if you have any questions...and thanks again!

Brooke

Brooke Perry Pardue

Constituent Services Manager

Congressman John Yarmuth

600 Martin Luther King, Jr. Place

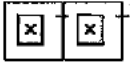
Suite 216

Louisville, KY 40202

(502) 582-5129 - office

(502) 582-5897 - fax

Updates from Congressman Yarmuth



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