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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE.
Washington, DC 20590

December 6, 2011

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senator
70 Washington Street, Suite 203
Oakland, CA 94607

NVS-216 nlm
Ref. No. 10418529

Dear Senator Boxer:

Thank you for your correspondence on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] wrote concerning a model year (MY) 2011 Honda Accord.

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 also monitor the adequacy of manufacturers' recall campaigns. 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 cannot act on isolated problems or resolve disputes between individual owners, dealers, or manufacturers.

Reports from motorists are a very important source of information for us. [REDACTED] indicated that an MY 2011 Honda Accord she used to own experienced unintended acceleration while pulling into a parking space which resulted in a crash. She contacted her local Honda dealership who inspected the vehicle. The inspector was unable to duplicate the problem or identify any vehicle-based cause; therefore, no further action was taken. [REDACTED] is requesting that NHTSA conduct an investigation into this matter.

We have reviewed our database regarding problems with the unintended acceleration in MY 2011 Honda Accord vehicles. At this time, there is insufficient evidence to warrant opening a safety defect investigation. The information [REDACTED] provided has been entered into our database. It will be considered with future reports to identify any safety defect trends that may require our attention. A brochure explaining the investigation and recall process is enclosed for her information; or she may visit our website at:
www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/problems/recallprocess.cfm.



ES11-006795

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██████████ mentioned the unprecedented 10-month study by NHTSA in 2010 of potential causes of unintended acceleration in Toyota vehicles. NHTSA enlisted National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) engineers with expertise in areas such as computer controlled electronic systems, electromagnetic interference and software integrity. NASA researched whether electronic systems or electromagnetic interference played a role in incidents of unintended acceleration.

NASA engineers found no electronic flaws in Toyota vehicles capable of producing the large throttle openings required to create dangerous high-speed unintended acceleration incidents. The two mechanical safety defects identified by NHTSA - "sticking" accelerator pedals and design flaws that enable accelerator pedals to become trapped - remain the only known vehicle based causes for these kinds of unsafe unintended acceleration incidents.

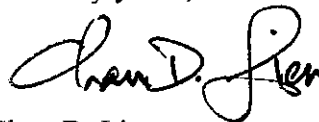
While NASA and NHTSA have identified no electronic cause of dangerous unintended acceleration incidents in Toyota vehicles or any new mechanical causes beyond sticking pedals and accelerator pedal entrapment, NHTSA is considering taking several new actions in all manufacturer's vehicles as the result of these findings, including:

- Propose rules to require brake override systems, to standardize operation of keyless ignition systems, and to require the installation of event data recorders in all passenger vehicles;
- Initiate broad research on the reliability and security of electronic control systems;
- Initiate research into the placement and design of accelerator and brake pedals, as well as driver usage of pedals, to determine whether design and placement can be improved to reduce pedal misapplication.

Although ██████████ owns a Honda vehicle, she may find some useful information in the Executive Summary and Full Report for the NHTSA-NASA investigation on unintended acceleration in Toyota vehicles online at www.nhtsa.dot.gov.

I hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions, please contact me or Ms. Nancy L. Lewis, Associate Administrator for Enforcement, at (202) 366-3217.

Sincerely yours,



Chan D. Lieu
Director, Governmental Affairs,

Enclosure

cc: Washington Office