



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

November 8, 2012

The Honorable Sam Graves
Member, U.S. House of Representatives
113 Blue Jay Drive, Suite 100
Liberty, MO 64068

NVS-216 mec
Ref. No. 10479617

Dear Congressman Graves:

Thank you for your correspondence on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED] who wrote concerning his model year (MY) 2001 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 truck.

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. 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 trend may exist. However, we do not have authority to act on isolated problems or resolve disputes between individual owners, dealers, or manufacturers.

[REDACTED] contacted the NHTSA Hotline on October 10 to report a faulty fuel gauge in his MY 2001 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 truck. The information from [REDACTED] report was entered into our complaint database. Under our regular procedures, NHTSA staff may follow up and contact the vehicle owner if we require additional information.

[REDACTED] noticed that the fuel gauge repeatedly bounces between full and empty. He took the truck to a dealer, who determined that the fuel sending unit had failed. He also contacted General Motors (GM); however, they were not able to help him. His concern is for the general public running out of fuel on the highway and being put in a dangerous situation.

NHTSA has influenced a number of recalls involving inaccurate fuel gauges. However, in these recalls the fuel gauge would consistently read higher than the actual fuel level in the tank. This poses an unreasonable risk to safety. We have reviewed our database in an effort to identify whether a safety defect trend exists with fuel gauges and fuel sending units in MY 2001

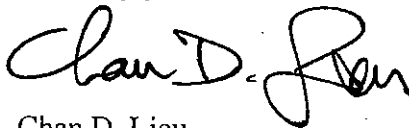
The Honorable Sam Graves

Chevrolet Silverado 1500 trucks. Our review shows owners report fuel gauges that read erratically or consistently read empty. This provides sufficient warning to the driver to have the vehicle repaired before running out of fuel. At this time, there is insufficient evidence to warrant opening a safety defect investigation.

The information [REDACTED] provided has been entered into our database and will be considered with future reports to identify any safety defect trends that may require our attention. We recommend that [REDACTED] continue to work with GM to address any unresolved concerns. A brochure explaining the investigation and recall process is enclosed for [REDACTED] information; or he may visit our web site at www.nhtsa.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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chan D. Lieu". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "L" at the end.

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

Enclosure

cc: Washington Office