



U.S. Department
of Transportation

National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

INFORMATION Redacted PURSUANT TO THE FREEDOM OF
INFORMATION ACT (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552(B)(6)

December 2, 2013

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

NVS-216 nlm
Ref. No. 10551253

Dear Senator Feinstein:

Thank you for your correspondence on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED] concerning his model year (MY) 2012 Tiffin Allegro recreational vehicle (RV). The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) has looked into this issue and we are pleased to respond.

NHTSA is the Federal agency responsible for improving safety on our Nation's highways. We are authorized to order manufacturers to recall and repair motor 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.

[REDACTED] indicates that the Suburban propane furnace in his MY 2012 Tiffin Allegro RV began to make a rattling noise the first time he turned it on. The noise gradually became worse, as if something had broken inside the furnace. A service technician inspected the furnace and found that the blower fan had broken. Also, plastic pieces of the blower fan blades had burned inside the furnace fire box. [REDACTED] asserts that burning plastic creates a dangerous condition due to the toxins being emitted and suggests that all propane furnaces with plastic fans in the RV industry may need to be recalled to replace the plastic blower fans with ones made of metal.

An ODI staff member contacted [REDACTED] to obtain more information regarding his problem. Based on his information, we reviewed our database in an effort to identify whether a safety defect trend exists with regard to Suburban propane furnaces equipped in MY 2012 Tiffin Allegro RV's. In addition, we looked into whether there is a safety defect trend with plastic blower fans used in propane furnaces for the RV industry. At this time, there is insufficient

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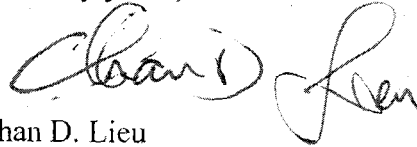
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evidence to indicate a defect trend and thus warrant opening a safety defect investigation or to initiate a recall. However, the information provided has been entered into our database. It will be considered with future reports to identify any safety defect trends that may require our attention. We enclose a brochure explaining the NHTSA investigation and recall process and the information is on our web site at www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/recalls/recallprocess.cfm. [REDACTED] reported that Suburban was very timely in responding to his concerns and replaced the furnace under warranty.

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", written in a cursive style.

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

Enclosure