



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration

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

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

June 29, 2015

The Honorable Jeff Flake  
United States Senator  
6840 North Oracle Road, Suite 150  
Tucson, AZ 85704

NVS-216 nam  
Ref. No. 10714848

Dear Senator Flake:

Thank you for your correspondence on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED] concerning his model year (MY) 2015 Jeep Grand Cherokee. Your letter was forwarded to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Defects Investigation (ODI). I am pleased to respond and regret any inconvenience our delay in responding may have caused you or your constituent.

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 motor 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 or to take enforcement action, 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 driver assist package, specifically the forward collision warning (FCW) alert, in his MY 2015 Jeep Grand Cherokee has a potential safety problem. He alleges that the FCW alert does not activate under any circumstance, regardless of the sensitivity setting. [REDACTED] dealer inspected the vehicle and experienced the problem, but they agreed with the manufacturer and concluded that the vehicle was working as designed. In addition, he contacted the Arizona Office of the Attorney General and other consumer protection agencies and organizations for assistance but to no avail. [REDACTED] requests that more testing take place in order to ensure that high tech accident avoidance systems work when needed.

On June 1, 2015, ODI opened Preliminary Evaluation (PE15-021, resume enclosed) based on owners alleging incidents of FCW alerts followed by automatic braking with no pending threats in the line of travel. The condition can result in an unexpected sudden drop in vehicle speed in MY 2014 and MY 2015 Jeep Grand Cherokee vehicles equipped with FCW and Crash

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Mitigation alerts. Our investigation will include the overall functionality of the FCW accident avoidance system. However, the investigation is continuing, and no determinations have been reached at this time. The information [REDACTED] provided has been entered into our database. It will be considered with any future reports as part of our investigation. We have enclosed a brochure explaining NHTSA's investigation and recall process, which is also on our web site at [www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/recalls/recallprocess.cfm](http://www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/recalls/recallprocess.cfm). We recommend that [REDACTED] periodically check our web site at [www.safercar.gov](http://www.safercar.gov) for future updates to our investigation.

I hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions, please contact me or Mr. Frank S. Borris, Acting Associate Administrator for Enforcement, at (202) 493-2631.

Sincerely yours,



Alison Pascale  
Director, Governmental Affairs,  
Policy and Strategic Planning

Enclosures

cc: Washington Office