



U.S. Department
of Transportation

National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

April 4, 2018

The Honorable Warren Davidson
Member, U.S. House of Representatives
8857 Cincinnati-Dayton Road, #102
West Chester, OH 45069

NEF-109 rrr
Ref. No. 11075889

Dear Congressman Davidson:

Thank you for your correspondence on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED] concerning his model year (MY) 2007 Ford Ranger truck. Your correspondence was forwarded to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). I am pleased to respond.

NHTSA is the Federal agency responsible for improving safety on our Nation's public roads. We monitor the adequacy of manufacturers' recall campaigns and can 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.

[REDACTED] explains he is still awaiting a replacement air bag for his vehicle, which is affected by NHTSA Safety Recall No. 16V-384. That recall addresses a problem with frontal passenger-side Takata air bag inflators in MY 2007 Ford Rangers, among other Ford vehicles. In the event of a crash where the front passenger-side air bag deploys, the inflator can explode.

The Takata air bag inflator recalls are the largest and most complex recalls in U.S. automotive history. These recalls include 19 vehicle manufacturers and currently include approximately 50 million inflators in an estimated 37 million vehicles in the United States alone. One of the challenges presented by these unprecedented recalls is the availability of remedy parts, which is affected by several factors including redesigning repair parts using alternative inflator suppliers, testing to ensure the redesigned repair parts are safe, manufacturing and capacity constraints given the enormous global demand, and logistics in getting the parts out to the distribution networks and into the dealer's hands. In the case of certain Ford vehicles, such as [REDACTED] 2007 Ford Ranger, the redesign of an alternative inflator as a safe remedy part took longer than Ford initially expected.

Recognizing the many unique challenges in the Takata recalls, NHTSA instituted a Coordinated Remedy to prioritize vehicles for repair based on the risk to vehicle occupants so that the highest risk vehicles would have repair parts available first. Under NHTSA's amended Coordinated Remedy Order issued in December 2016, Ford was ordered to have repair parts available for MY 2007 Ford Ranger owners in Ohio¹ by September 30, 2017. However, due to delays in Ford's remedy part redesign and development Ford requested, and was granted, an extension to

¹ For reference, based on the Make, Model, Model Year, and location in Ohio, [REDACTED] 2007 Ford Ranger is in Priority Group 6 in NHTSA's Coordinated Remedy Program.

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February 28, 2018,² to have parts available for these vehicles. Then, on February 9, 2018, Ford submitted an extension request³ to NHTSA seeking an extension to not later than May 11, 2018, to obtain enough parts. Ford has indicated that the design issues have been resolved and it is now a matter of setting up the manufacturing and making enough parts to begin repairing vehicles. That most recent extension request is pending with NHTSA and we will issue a decision as soon as possible.

Understandably, [REDACTED] has expressed his concerns about the safety of his passengers and himself due to this safety defect and frustration that the temporary solution suggested by Ford is to not allow anyone to sit in the passenger seat. We understand that this is neither an ideal nor an acceptable long-term solution. However, it is an immediately available temporary solution that may provide comfort to [REDACTED] and his passengers until Ford obtains the parts necessary to replace the air bag in his vehicle.

When [REDACTED] receives notification from Ford that parts are available, he should contact a local Ford dealer to schedule a **free** repair immediately. In the event the dealership tells [REDACTED] that parts are not available after he is notified by Ford that parts are available, or after May 2018 given the pending extension request, NHTSA requests that [REDACTED] report that information to us, including the name of the dealership, names of employees with whom he spoke, the date and time of the contact with the dealership, and any other information he believes may be useful. He can report this information by calling NHTSA's Vehicle Safety Hotline at 888-327-4236, or by filling out an online report following the Takata Recalls instructions at: <https://www-odi.nhtsa.gov/VehicleComplaint/>.

For the most up-to-date information on the Takata recalls, we encourage [REDACTED] to visit our website at www.nhtsa.gov/recall-spotlight/takata-air-bags. Further, we suggest that [REDACTED] check NHTSA's website at least twice per year for new safety recalls. He can search using his Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) in the VIN Look-Up Tool.

I hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Mr. Jeffrey M. Giuseppe, Associate Administrator for Enforcement at 202-493-2631.

Sincerely,



Brian Barnard
Director, Governmental Affairs,
Policy and Strategic Planning

cc: Washington Office

² The extension was granted in the Fifth Amendment to the Coordinated Remedy Order, which is available on NHTSA's website at: <https://www.nhtsa.gov/document/fifth-amendment-coordinated-remedy-order-extensions>.

³ Ford's pending extension request is available on NHTSA's website at: <https://www.nhtsa.gov/document/ford-motor-company-extension-request-pg-4-8-supplement-nov-30-2017-and-appendices>.