INFORMATION REDACTED PURSUANT TOTHE FREEDOM
OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA), 5 U.S.C.552(B)(6)

U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

October 17, 2018

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator
30 West Mifflin Street, Suite 700
Madison, WI 53703

NEF-109 rrr
Ref. No. 11096613

Dear Senator Baldwin:

Thank you for your correspondence on behalf of your constituent, [redacted] concerning her model year (MY) 2012 Kia Soul. 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 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 completion rates and adequacy of manufacturers' recall campaigns.

We appreciate the report you provided. Reports from motorists are a very important source of information for NHTSA. [redacted] also sent a report through our www.nhtsa.gov website regarding her vehicle problem on May 18, 2018 (Ref. No. 11096613, enclosed). NHTSA's Office of Defects Investigation is monitoring all available data concerning engine failures and related fires in MY 2012 Kia Soul vehicles, equipped with 1.6L Gamma engines. While we continue to monitor this issue, no investigation has been opened nor determinations reached at this time. Please note that the 1.6L Gamma engine in [redacted] Kia Soul is a different engine design than the 2.0 and 2.2L Theta II engine that was recalled by Kia in 2017, and referenced by [redacted] in her correspondence.

We regret the engine failure that [redacted] experienced with her vehicle and sympathize with the financial burden this has placed on her. However, we do not have authority to provide assistance in her request for compensation from the manufacturer. We recommend that [redacted] continue to work with Kia, her dealer, and the consumer protection agencies and organizations she has contacted. The information you 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. For [redacted] information, an explanation of NHTSA's investigation and recall process is on our website at www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/recalls/recalls/recallprocess.cfm.

I hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions, please contact me at 202-366-2386.

Sincerely,

Brian Barnard

Brian Barnard
Director, Governmental Affairs,
Policy and Strategic Planning

Enclosure

cc: The Washington Office

Form Approved: O.M.B. No. 2127-0008

U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

DOT Auto Safety Hotline

Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire

To Report Vehicle Safety Defects
1-888-DASH-2-DOT
(1-888-327-4236)
INTERNET:www.nhtsa.dot.gov/hotline

FOR AGENCY USE ONLY 100148	
Date Received	Repository ☐
17-MAY-2018	Reference No. 11096613

OWNER INFORMATION (Type or Print)

Name [redacted]		Daytime Telephone Number [redacted]	E-mail Address [redacted]
Address [redacted]		Evening Telephone Number	
City KENOSHA	State WI	Zip Code [redacted]	

The information you provide will be used to identify potential safety-related defects. We may share your information with the applicable vehicle manufacturer during an investigation or recall in accordance with the routine uses described in the agency's Privacy Act notice. See 49 FR 53971 (Sep. 3, 2004).

VEHICLE INFORMATION

17 digit Vehicle Identification Number Located at bottom of windshield on driver's side	Make	Model	Model Year
KNDJT2A58C7[redacted]	KIA	SOUL	2012

Date Purchased	Dealer's Name and Telephone Number			Engine: No: Cylinders 4	Fuel Type: Gas
Original Owner ☐	Dealer's City	State	Zip Code		

Transmission Type	☐ Antilock Brakes ☐ Cruise Control	Powertrain	Multiple Failure: 1	Incident Date(s) 14-MAY-2018

FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION

Vehicle Component Codes: 060000 ENGINE (PWS), 250000 ELECTRONIC STABILITY CONTROL	Failure Mileage 81000	Failure Speed 60

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A TIRE FAILURE

Tire Make	Tire Model (Name or Number)	Tire Size (Example P215/65R15)
DOT No. (Example: DOTMAL9ABC036)	☐ Original Equipment ☐ Prior Repair	Failure Location:
Tire Component Code		Tire Failure Type:

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A CHILD SEAT FAILURE

Make:	Date Manufactured:	Model No./Name:
Seat Type:	Installation System:	
Child Seat Component Code:	Failed Part:	

APPLICABLE INCIDENT INFORMATION

(Please describe in detail the incident(s), Failure(s), Crash(es), and injury(ies).)

Crash	Fire	Number of Persons Injured	Number of Deaths	Reported to Police
☐ Yes ☒ No	☐ Yes ☒ No			N

Narrative Description of Incident(S), Crash(es), and Injury(ies).
Please describe (1) events leading up to the failure, (2) failure and its consequences, and (3) what was done to correct the failure; i.e, parts repaired or replaced (and if old part is available).

WAS DRIVING ON THE EXPRESS WAY BEHIND A SEMI. WHEN THE SEMI GOT OVER IN THE RIGHT LANE I ACCELERATED AND HERD A LOUD BANG AND DARK SMOKE STARTED COMING FROM MY ENGINE. IT SMELLED OFTEN AND IMPAIRED MY VISION. SEVERAL OF MY CAUSATION LIGHT ILLUMINATED AND I WAS STUCK AT 60 MPH MY CAR WOULD NOT ACCELERATE AND STOPPED WORKING. I GOT OVER IN THE RIGHT LANE SAFELY AND COASTED FOR ABOUT A MILE AND A HALF TO THE NEAREST EXIT. SOMETHING TOLD ME DO NOT PUT YOUR FOOT ON THE BRAKES OR YOU WILL BE IN SERIOUS TROUBLE. AS I GOT OF THE EXIT I STARTED TO BRAKE AND MY CAR STOPPED AND DIED.OIL WAS LEAKING OUT AND NOTHING WAS WORKING. I HAD TO GET PEOPLE TO PUSH ME OFF TO THE SIDE OF THE ROAD AND GET A TOW TO THE DEALERSHIP. THEY TOLD ME I HAD CATASTROPHIC ENGINE FAILURE. SO MY ENGINE FAILED ME AND I COULD HAVE BEEN KILLED. I DID RESEARCH AND THERE HAVE BEEN MANY KIAS WITH RECALL AND VERY SIMILAR SITUATIONS AS MINE BUT NOT WITH MY MODEL CAR. I AM SURE THIS IS A MANUFACTURES ERROR AND I PRAY KIA DOES A RECALL TO PROTECT PEOPLES LIVES. *JS

Include, if available: Police/Fire Department Report, Photos, and Repair Invoice. ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY

The Privacy Act of 1974-Public Law 93-579 This information is requested pursuant to authority vested in the National Highway Traffic Safety Act and subsequent amendments. You are under no obligation to respond this questionnaire. Your response may be used to assist the NHTSA in determining whether a Manufacturer should take appropriate action to correct a safety defect. If the NHTSA proceeds with administrative enforcement or litigation against a manufacturer, your response, or a statistical summary thereof, may be used in support of the agency's action.