



U.S. Department
of Transportation

National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

September 7, 2018

The Honorable Andy Harris
Member, U.S. House of Representatives
15 Churchville Road, Suite 102B
Bel Air, MD 21014

NEF-109 rrr
Ref. No. 11112628

Dear Congressman Harris:

Thank you for your correspondence on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED] concerning his model year (MY) 2013 Hyundai Santa Fe. 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 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 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 us. NHTSA's Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) has received reports similar to [REDACTED]. Based on these reports, ODI opened a dialogue with Hyundai regarding a potential safety defect in vehicles with "Theta II" engines. This dialogue resulted in Hyundai filing a recall notice on March 31, 2017, which commenced NHTSA Safety Recall Campaign 17V-226. The recall addresses a condition which could cause the engine to seize and the vehicle to stall.

[REDACTED] did not provide a Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) in his correspondence with your office or in the complaint filed with NHTSA. He describes the vehicle as a 2013 Hyundai Santa Fe Sport. While we cannot confirm this without the VIN, [REDACTED] Santa Fe should be equipped with the Theta II engine and therefore should be one of the vehicles covered by the March 31, 2017 recall. We suggest that he contact his local Hyundai dealer immediately to confirm that his vehicle is within the recall population and, if so, arrange for a free repair.

[REDACTED] can also check NHTSA's website to determine if these recalls apply to his vehicle and remain open by entering his VIN into our VIN Look-Up Tool (<https://www.nhtsa.gov/recalls>). If [REDACTED] has paid to repair the engine and later found out that his vehicle was included in a recall, we recommend that he contact Hyundai regarding his eligibility for a reimbursement. If [REDACTED] received a recall notification, he should follow the instructions in the letter to file a claim. Certain restrictions may apply, including the need to submit certain documents to the manufacturer, such as a repair order and proof of payment.

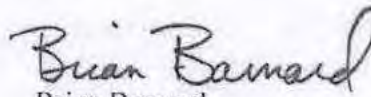
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Your constituent may also wish to know that ODI opened an investigation, Recall Query (RQ) 17004 (resume enclosed) on May 5, 2017, to further analyze whether Hyundai and Kia acted in a timely fashion when initiating the Theta II engine recalls of MY 2011 through MY 2014 vehicles (Recalls 15V-568 and 17V-226). To date our RQ investigation continues and no determinations have been reached. The information you provided has been entered into our database. It will be considered with any future reports as part of our investigation. An explanation of NHTSA's investigation and recall process is on our website at www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/recalls/recallprocess.cfm. Also, [REDACTED] should continue to monitor our website at www.nhtsa.gov for future updates to our investigation.

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

Sincerely,



Brian Barnard
Director, Governmental Affairs,
Policy and Strategic Planning

Enclosure

cc: The Washington Office



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of Transportation
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Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION
NHTSA
Authorizing U.S. Government Information
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
uses a digital certificate to return
the content has remained unchanged

Investigation: RQ 17-004
Date Opened: 05/18/2017
Investigator: Stephen Mchenry
Approver: Bruce York-B
Subject: Scope and Timeliness
Reviewer: Greg Magno

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Hyundai Motor America
Products: Vehicles subject to Recalls No. 15V-568 and 17V-226.
Population: 1,042,000 (Estimated)
Problem Description: Model Year (MY) 2011 - 2014 Hyundai vehicles with "Theta II" engines previously recalled under Recalls No. 15V-568 and 17V-226. The recalls addressed a condition which could cause the engine to seize and the vehicle to stall.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	0	TBD	TBD
Crashes/Fires:	0	TBD	TBD
Injury Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Number of Injuries:	0	TBD	TBD
Fatality Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Number of Fatalities:	0	TBD	TBD

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: A Recall Query has been opened.

Summary:

On September 10, 2015, Hyundai Motor America (Hyundai) filed a Defect Information Report (DIR) recalling 470,000 MY 2011 and 2012 Sonata vehicles with "Theta II" engines (Recall No. 15V-568). Hyundai's DIR described the defect as an issue involving manufacturing debris. Hyundai limited the population of recalled vehicles to those produced on or prior to April 12, 2012, stating that a process change in April 2012 resolved the issue of manufacturing debris.

On March 31, 2017, Hyundai expanded its original recall to include 572,000 MY 2013-2014 Sonata and Santa Fe Sport vehicles with "Theta II" engines (Recall No. 17V-226). The DIR continues to describe the defect as an issue involving manufacturing debris.

This RQ is being opened to investigate both the timeliness and scope of Hyundai's "Theta II" engine recalls, and Hyundai's compliance with reporting requirements.