



U.S. Department
of Transportation

National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

May 10, 2019

The Honorable Marco Rubio
United States Senator
201 Orange Avenue, Suite 350
Orlando, FL 32801

NEF-109 rrr
Ref. No. 11173197

Dear Senator Rubio:

Thank you for your correspondence on behalf of your constituents, [REDACTED] concerning their model year (MY) 2018 Kia Sportage. 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 roadways. 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 [REDACTED] provided. Reports from motorists are a very important source of information for us. NHTSA is aware of Kia's Product Improvement Campaign to perform a software update on MY 2016 through MY 2018 Kia Sportage vehicles equipped with 2.4L Gasoline Direct Injection and 2.0L Turbo charged GDI engines. Kia is taking this action in an effort to identify and warn owners of possible connecting rod bearing damage which may lead to engine failure. In addition, Kia is providing lifetime warranty coverage for engine long block repairs if this condition causes an engine failure. If your constituents experience an engine failure in your vehicle, we recommend that they contact Kia or their dealer immediately to determine the cause of the engine failure. We are monitoring Kia's Product Improvement Campaign for MY 2016 through MY 2018 Sportage vehicles and will take appropriate action if we determine a safety defect exists.

NHTSA's Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) has had discussions with Kia regarding a potential safety defect in vehicles equipped with 2.4L "Theta II" engines, which is the engine in their vehicle. This dialogue resulted in Kia filing a recall notice on March 31, 2017, which commenced NHTSA Safety Recall Campaign 17V-224, which encompassed several Kia vehicles, including 2011-2013 MY Sportage vehicles. The recall addresses a condition that could cause the engine to seize and the vehicle to stall. In addition, ODI opened an investigation, Recall Query (RQ) 17-003 on May 18, 2017, to further analyze whether Kia acted in a timely fashion when initiating Recall 17V-224, as well as the scope of the recall. To-date, our Recall Query investigation continues and no determinations have been reached.

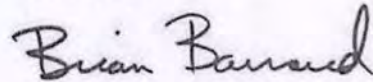
Page 2

The Honorable Marco Rubio

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 https://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.dot.gov/files/documents/mvdefectsandrecalls_808795.pdf.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Barnard". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Brian Barnard
Director, Governmental Affairs,
Policy and Strategic Planning

cc: The Washington Office