



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE.
Washington, DC 20590

April 8, 2025

The Honorable Dick Durbin
United States Senator
230 South Dearborn, Suite 3892
Chicago, IL 60604

NEF-109 III
Ref. No. 11638655

Dear Senator Durbin:

Thank you for the letter on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED], concerning his model year (MY) 2016 Chevrolet Equinox vehicle. Your letter was forwarded to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Defects Investigation. NHTSA's mission is to save lives, prevent injuries, and reduce economic costs due to road traffic crashes, through education, research, safety standards, and enforcement activity. I am pleased to respond.

We appreciate the report you provided. Among other enforcement activities, NHTSA continuously monitors available information to identify potential safety defect trends. As such, reports from motorists are a very important source of information for us. We received two previous reports from [REDACTED] his vehicle problem through our www.nhtsa.gov website on January 26, 2025 (Ref. No. 11638655, enclosed) and February 17, 2025 (Ref. No. 11643131, enclosed).

In his reports, [REDACTED] stated his wife was driving their MY 2016 Chevrolet Equinox when it began to run rough, and she noticed a trail of oil in their driveway. [REDACTED] also found a large amount of oil on the garage floor when he returned home. A local dealer diagnosed the problem and determined a plugged positive crankcase ventilation (PCV) valve caused the rear engine seal to leak oil, causing significant damage to the engine. [REDACTED] stated General Motors (GM) is aware of the problem and extended the warranty on MY 2010 through MY 2014 Chevrolet Equinox vehicles for this condition. [REDACTED] feels the engine failure he experienced is identical to a problem identified in other GM vehicles, including those covered by the extended warranty. Therefore, he requests that his vehicle be repaired free of charge under the extended warranty.

After reviewing [REDACTED] reports, we reviewed our database to identify whether a safety defect trend exists with PCV valves that can result in catastrophic engine damage in MY 2016 Chevrolet Equinox vehicles. At this time, NHTSA has not identified sufficient evidence to open a safety defect investigation or to initiate a recall. We entered the information in [REDACTED] reports into NHTSA's database, where it will be used with other reports to identify any safety defect trends. [REDACTED] can learn more about NHTSA's investigation and recall process on our website at https://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.gov/files/2024-11/MVSDefectsandRecalls-Update_112124_v1a_tag.pdf.

The Honorable Dick Durbin

NHTSA is aware of GM's Special Coverage Adjustment (Bulletin No. 14882) for this problem, which applies to MY 2010 through MY 2014 Chevrolet Equinox vehicles. Please note that a special coverage adjustment issued by a manufacturer does not mean a vehicle contains a safety-related defect in accordance with our statute, the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. Manufacturers may issue these types of actions at their discretion to address a known problem unrelated to motor vehicle safety and to restore customer satisfaction. While NHTSA continuously monitors manufacturer special coverages to identify potential vehicle safety issues, the agency does not otherwise regulate special coverage programs. Thus, the manufacturer remains responsible for all aspects of special coverage adjustments, including the nature and scope of the repair and the vehicle make, model, and years at issue.

We encourage [REDACTED] to continue to work with GM and his dealer to explore the potential for an amicable resolution to his problem. He can ask his dealership for a meeting with a GM district manager regarding his problem.

In addition, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) regulates and investigates warranty and dealership problems, reimbursement matters, and fair-trade practices. Therefore, if [REDACTED] believes this issue potentially relates to such a practice, he may contact the FTC to discuss the matter. There are two ways to contact the FTC: by toll free telephone at 877-FTC-Help; and by using the internet complaint form at ftc.gov/complaint.

I hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at david.bell@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

David Bell
Director
Office of Governmental
and Legislative Affairs

Enclosures