



JUN 18 2012

Jay Joseph, Senior Manager  
Product Regulatory Office  
American Honda Motor Co., Inc.  
1919 Torrance Boulevard  
Torrance, CA 90501-2746

Re: Request for Confidential Treatment/EA11-004

Dear Mr. Joseph:

This letter responds to your November 11, 2011 request for confidential treatment for American Honda Motor Co., Inc. ("Honda") information submitted to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in the above-referenced investigation. You request that these materials be granted confidential treatment indefinitely.

Honda provided this information voluntarily. Accordingly, I have reviewed your request under the principles set forth in *Critical Mass Energy Project v. Nuclear Regulatory Comm'n*, 975 F.2d 871 (D.C. Cir. 1992). Under the test set forth in *Critical Mass*, financial or commercial information provided to the government on a voluntary basis is "confidential" for the purposes of Exemption 4 of the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4)) if it is the kind of information that would customarily not be released to the public by the submitter. Your request indicates that the information contained in the materials you submitted is information that Honda would not customarily release to the public. Review of the information indicates that it is not publically available. Accordingly, I am granting your request for confidential treatment to the information contained in your submission.

Subject to the conditions described below, this grant will remain in effect indefinitely.

This grant of confidential treatment is subject to certain conditions. The information may be disclosed under 49 C.F.R. § 512.22 based upon newly discovered or changed facts, and you must inform the agency of any changed circumstances that may affect the protection of the information (49 C.F.R. § 512.10). If necessary, you will be notified prior to the release

of any information under the procedures established by our regulations (49 C.F.R. § 512.22(b)). Furthermore, this information may be disclosed if such disclosure would be in the public interest, pursuant to the procedures established in 49 C.F.R. § 512.23.

Sincerely,

**Original Signed By**

Otto G. Matheke, III  
Senior Attorney

