

JUN 22 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/ [REDACTED]

PE11-034

Dear Mr. Joseph:

This letter responds to your November 29, 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.

Your request is granted.

The information provided by Honda was requested pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30166, which authorizes the agency to conduct investigations and require manufacturers to submit reports. Because Honda was required to submit this information, I have examined your submission using the competitive harm standard set forth in *National Parks & Conservation Ass'n v. Morton*, 498 F.2d 765 (D.C. Cir. 1974).

I have reviewed your submission, including the materials that you claim are entitled to confidential treatment and the arguments that you assert in support of your claim. I have concluded that the public release of the materials marked confidential on the CD-ROM entitled "PE11-034, Honda Attachment #15, CONFIDENTIAL 11/29/11" would be likely to cause substantial competitive harm to your company and, therefore, that this information is entitled to confidential treatment pursuant to Exemption 4 of the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4).

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 CFR 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 CFR 512.10. If necessary, you will be notified prior to the release of any information under the procedures established by our regulations. 49 CFR 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 CFR 512.23.

Sincerely,

**Original Signed By**

Otto G. Matheke, III  
Senior Attorney

