



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE.
Washington, DC 20590

December 8, 2010

The Honorable Barney Frank
Member, U.S. House of Representatives
29 Crafts Street, Ste 375
Newton, MA 02458

NVS-216 nlm
Ref. No. 10331557

Dear Congressman Frank:

Thank you for your correspondence on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] wrote concerning his model year (MY) 2006 Chevrolet Cobalt.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is the Federal agency responsible for improving safety on our Nation's highways. We are authorized to order manufacturers to recall and repair vehicles or motor vehicle equipment when our investigations indicate that they contain safety defects in their design, construction, or performance. However, we cannot act on isolated problems or resolve disputes between individual owners, dealers, or manufacturers.

We appreciate the report you provided on behalf of [REDACTED]. Reports from motorists are a very important source of information for us. In [REDACTED] correspondence, he indicated that he filed an online complaint with NHTSA, which we located under complaint No. 10331557. Information submitted by owners via the Internet is automatically entered into our complaint database. NHTSA's Office of Defects Investigation reviews and analyzes the data to determine whether an investigation is warranted. If necessary, we will follow up and contact the vehicle owner. Otherwise the information is entered into our database and used to identify safety-related defect trends. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused [REDACTED]

We understand [REDACTED] concerns for the intermittent stalling he experienced in his MY 2006 Chevrolet Cobalt. [REDACTED] advised that while driving or just before coming to a stop the vehicle would stall. Upon General Motors' recommendation, [REDACTED] took the vehicle to a



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dealer. However, the dealer's technician was unable to find the cause of the stalling. [REDACTED] contacted General Motors again but they refused to provide any further assistance based on the dealer's inability to determine the cause of the stalling.

We have reviewed our database in an effort to identify whether a safety defect trend exists with regard to stalling problems in MY 2006 Chevrolet Cobalt vehicles. At this time, there is insufficient evidence to warrant opening a safety defect investigation. A brochure explaining the investigation process is enclosed for [REDACTED] information; or he may visit our web site at: www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/problems/recalls/recallprocess.cfm. The information [REDACTED] provided has been entered into our database. It will be considered with future reports to identify any safety defect trends that may require our attention.

NHTSA is aware of Technical Service Bulletins (TSB) (Article No. 10021237 and 10014807, copies enclosed) concerning stalling in certain MY 2005 through MY 2006 Chevrolet Cobalt vehicles. However, the issuance of a TSB does not necessarily reflect the existence of a safety-related defect in accordance with the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. We recommend that [REDACTED] contact his local Chevrolet dealership to schedule a meeting with a General Motors district manager regarding his problem.

I hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions, please contact me or Mr. Claude H. Harris, Acting Associate Administrator for Enforcement, at (202) 366-3217.

Sincerely yours,



Chan D. Lieu
Director, Governmental Affairs,
Policy and Strategic Planning

Enclosures

cc: Washington Office