From: Christopher Tinto/=WDC/Toyota_NY. Sent:10/19/2007 11:37 AM.
To: [-] Chris Santucci/=WDC/Toyota_NY@Toyota_NY.
Cc: [-] Chris_Tinto@tma.toyota.com;Jo Cooper/=WDC/Toyota_NY@Toyota_NY;Kevin Ro/=WDC/Toyota_NY@Toyota_NY;Mark Johnson.
Bcc: [-] .
Subject: Re: URGENT Fw: Committee Letter.

Chris :

Thanks for this veryquick response - I appreciate it.

Mark - will this work for your purposes? Can you draft something to go back to your folks on the Hill if/when needed?

Best Regards,
Chris

Chris Tinto
****
Vice President, Technical and Regulatory Affairs, Safety
Toyota Motor North America, Inc.
601 13th St. NW
Suite 910 South
Washington, DC 20005
Phone (202) 463-6824
NEW CELL NUMBER - (202) 412-7822
email: Chris_Tinto@tma.toyota.com

Chris Santucci/WDC/Toyota_NY

10/19/2007 02:14 PM To Christopher Tinto/WDC/Toyota_NY@Toyota_NY
cc Chris_Tinto@tma.toyota.com, Jo Cooper/WDC/Toyota_NY@Toyota_NY, Kevin Ro/WDC/Toyota_NY@Toyota_NY, Mark Johnson
Subject Re: URGENT Fw: Committee LetterLink

Chris,

Attached is the Q&A dated October 3 from TMS on this issue. Since the time this Q&A was approved by TMS, I contacted NHTSA and obtained 19 owner complaint reports from NHTSA on the Tacoma. The complaint reports mention engine surge and vehicle lurch, etc. There are some low speed crashes alleged. TMC and TMS are looking into them as we speak.

NHTSA has been reviewing the complaints in their own database, as well as some owner forums on the internet. They have not opened a defect investigation. The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) did ask the Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance (OVSC) to confirm the compliance of the 2007 MY Tacoma with FMVSS 124, as you noted. As such, NHTSA issued a standard compliance IR (Information Request) to us on September 26, which I just received a draft response this morning from TMC-QD. Our response is due October 23. I also spoke with Harry Thompson at OVSC (he's the responsible branch chief) about this letter and they have purchased a vehicle (a 2WD V6) that will be tested at VRTC after we respond to the IR. TMS is aware of the issue and media inquiries can be directed to Corporate Communications if needed.

Regards,

Chris Santucci - Assistant Manager
Technical and Regulatory Affairs
Toyota Motor North America, Inc.
Ofc (202) 463-6856 Cell (202) 651-1581 Fax (202) 463-8513
email: Chris_Santucci@tma.toyota.com

Note: We cannot receive attachment extensions listed below.
.exe, .com, .pif, .scr, .cmd, .bat, .vbs, .lnk, .htm, .html, .shs, or .zip

Christopher Tinto/WDC/Toyota_NY

10/19/2007 01:45 PM To chris santucci
cc Kevin Ro/WDC/Toyota_NY@Toyota_NY, Chris_Tinto@tma.toyota.com, Mark Johnson, jo cooper
Subject URGENT Fw: Committee Letter

Chris :

See below. Please give me a one paragraph write up on what is going on for this issue with NHTSA. (i.e. what the complaint/allegation is, note that NHTSA is doing a compliance investigation into 124 , note that we got a letter and are cooperating, NHTSA bought a truck, TMC is looking into it, etc. Whatever you can think of, please add it...

Also, was there a Q&A on this issue out of TMS?

Mark will write a letter up for the committee to try to stop this from moving forward - We need to keep this within NHTSA rather than have it expand to a hearing.

Thanks - I need this NO LATER than Monday 12:00 OK?

Best Regards,
Chris

Chris Tinto
****
Vice President, Technical and Regulatory Affairs, Safety
Toyota Motor North America, Inc.
601 13th St. NW
Suite 910 South
Washington, DC 20005
Phone (202) 463-6824
NEW CELL NUMBER - (202) 412-7822
email: Chris_Tinto@tma.toyota.com

----- Forwarded by Christopher Tinto/WDC/Toyota_NY on 10/19/2007 01:40 PM -----

Mark Johnson/WDC/Toyota_NY

10/19/2007 10:55 AM To ctinto@tma.toyota.com
cc Jo Cooper/WDC/Toyota_NY@Toyota_NY, Anna Schneider/WDC/Toyota_NY, Charlie Ing/WDC/Toyota_NY
Subject Fw: Committee Letter

Chris, I got a heads up from a friend of mine in Rep. Blackburn's office about a letter his boss sent to the Energy and Commerce Committee asking for an investigation into sudden acceleration on the 2007 Tacoma. Apparently, a local news station in Nashville (see the links below) has been doing a story on this and interviewed Rep. Blackburn and asked her about the issue. She was on the spot and said she would look into it, thus the attached letter. Do you have any information I can provide her or any recommendations on how to proceed?

Thanks,

Mark
----- Forwarded by Mark Johnson/WDC/Toyota_NY on 10/19/2007 10:50 AM -----
"Louer, Greg" <Greg.Louer@mail.house.gov>

10/19/2007 10:19 AM To <mark_johnson@tma.toyota.com>
cc "Brophy, Steve" <Steve.Brophy@mail.house.gov>
Subject Committee Letter

Mark,

Thanks for taking the call this morning, and if you have any questions just let me know.

Best regards,

- Greg L.

http://www.wsmv.com/iteam/14295351/detail.html

http://www.wsmv.com/iteam/14304072/detail.html

Greg Louer
Office of Rep. Marsha Blackburn
509 Cannon House Office Building
202-225-2811 (Voice)
202-225-3004 (Fax)
greg.louer@mail.house.gov