

The <http://www.regulations.gov> Web site provides the option of making submissions by filling in a comments field, or by attaching a document. USTR prefers submissions to be provided in an attached document. If a document is attached, it is sufficient to type "See attached" in the "Type comment & Upload File" field. USTR also prefers submissions in Microsoft Word (.doc) or Adobe Acrobat (.pdf). If the submission is in an application other than those two, please indicate the name of the application in the "Comments" field.

For any comments submitted electronically containing business confidential information, the file name of the business confidential version should begin with the characters "BC". Any page containing business confidential information must be clearly marked "BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL" on the top of that page. Filers of submissions containing business confidential information must also submit a public version of their comments. The file name of the public version should begin with the character "P". The "BC" and "P" should be followed by the name of the person or entity submitting the comments or reply comments. Filers submitting comments containing no business confidential information should name their file using the character "P", followed by the name of the person or entity submitting the comments.

Please do not attach separate cover letters to electronic submissions; rather, include any information that might appear in a cover letter in the comments themselves. Similarly, to the extent possible, please include any exhibits, annexes, or other attachments in the same file as the submission itself, not as separate files.

USTR strongly urges submitters to file comments through <http://www.regulations.gov>, if at all possible. Any alternative arrangements must be made with Donald W. Eiss in advance of transmitting a comment. Mr. Eiss should be contacted at (202) 395-3475. General information concerning USTR is available at <http://www.ustr.gov>.

Douglas Bell,

Chair, Trade Policy Staff Committee.

[FR Doc. 2011-31318 Filed 12-6-11; 8:45 am]

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Request for Comments on Canada's Expression of Interest in the Proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership Trade Agreement

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Request for comments.

SUMMARY: Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper recently stated Canada's intention to begin consultations with the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) countries towards joining the TPP negotiations. The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) is assessing Canada's expression of interest in the TPP negotiations in light of the TPP's high standards for liberalizing trade and specific issues of concern to the United States regarding Canadian barriers to agriculture, services, and manufacturing trade, including non-tariff measures. In conducting its assessment, USTR is seeking public comments on these concerns and all other elements related to Canada's interest in the TPP negotiations.

DATES: Written comments are due by noon, January 13, 2012.

ADDRESSES: *Submissions via on-line:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. For alternatives to on-line submissions please contact Donald W. Eiss at (202) 395-3475.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For questions concerning requirements for written comments, please contact Donald W. Eiss at (202) 395-3475. All other questions regarding this notice should be directed to Mary T. Smith, Director for Canada, at (202) 395-3412.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

On December 14, 2009, after consulting with relevant Congressional committees, USTR notified Congress of the President's intent to initiate negotiations on a TPP trade agreement. These negotiations aim to achieve a high-standard, 21st century agreement with a membership and coverage that provides economically significant market access opportunities for America's workers, farmers, ranchers, service providers, and small businesses and that can expand to include additional countries across the Asia-Pacific region. Currently, the negotiations include Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam, as well as the United States. Further information regarding the TPP negotiations can be found at <http://www.ustr.gov/tpp>.

On November 13, 2011, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper stated Canada's interest in joining the TPP negotiations. The Chair of the interagency Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) invites interested persons to provide written comments that will assist USTR in assessing Canada's expression of interest in the TPP negotiations in light of the TPP's high standards for liberalizing trade and specific issues of concern to the United States regarding Canadian barriers to agriculture, services, and manufacturing trade, including non-tariff measures. Commenters may address these issues or any other specific barriers affecting U.S. exports to or investment in Canada. The TPSC Chair invites comments on all of these matters, and, in particular, on the following:

(a) Economic costs and benefits to U.S. producers and consumers of eliminating tariffs and eliminating or reducing non-tariff barriers on goods and services traded with Canada.

(b) Treatment by Canada of specific goods (described by HTSUS numbers), including product-specific import or export interests or barriers.

(c) Adequacy of existing customs measures to ensure that only qualifying imported goods from Canada receive preferential treatment, and appropriate rules of origin for goods entering the United States.

(d) Canadian sanitary and phytosanitary measures or technical barriers to trade that should be addressed.

(e) Existing barriers to trade in services between the United States and Canada that should be addressed.

(f) Relevant electronic commerce issues.

(g) Relevant trade-related intellectual property rights issues.

(h) Relevant investment issues.

(i) Relevant competition-related matters.

(j) Relevant government procurement issues.

(k) Relevant environmental issues.

(l) Relevant labor issues.

(m) Relevant transparency issues.

(n) Relevant issues related to innovation and competitiveness, new technologies and emerging economic sectors, the participation of small- and medium-sized businesses in trade, and the development of efficient production and supply chains.

Public Comment: Requirements for Submissions

Persons submitting written comments must do so in English and must identify (on the first page of the submission) "Canada's Expression of Interest in the

Trans-Pacific Partnership Trade Negotiations.” In order to be assured of consideration, comments should be submitted by noon, January 13, 2012.

In order to ensure the timely receipt and consideration of comments, USTR strongly encourages commenters to make on-line submissions, using the <http://www.regulations.gov> Web site. Comments should be submitted under the following docket: USTR–2011–0019. To find the docket, enter the docket number in the “Enter Keyword or ID” window at the <http://www.regulations.gov> home page and click “Search.” The site will provide a search-results page listing all documents associated with this docket. Find a reference to this notice by selecting “Notices” under “Document Type” on the search-results page, and click on the link entitled “Submit a Comment.” (For further information on using the <http://www.regulations.gov> Web site, please consult the resources provided on the Web site by clicking on the “Help” tab.)

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annexes, or other attachments in the same file as the submission itself, not as separate files.

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Douglas Bell,

Chair, Trade Policy Staff Committee.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Denial of Motor Vehicle Defect Petition

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, (NHTSA), Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Denial of a petition for a defect investigation.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the reasons for the denial of a petition Defect Petition (DP) 10–004 submitted by Ms. Lalitha Seetharaman (petitioner) with the assistance of Emerick Bohmer to NHTSA by a letter received on November 5, 2010, under 49 CFR part 552. The petitioners request an investigation of brake failure in model year 2005 Honda Accord Hybrid vehicles.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Derek Rinehardt, Vehicle Controls Division, Office of Defects Investigation, NHTSA, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone (202) 366–3642. Email derek.rinehardt@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Section—1.0 Introduction

Interested persons may petition NHTSA requesting that the agency initiate an investigation to determine whether a motor vehicle or item of replacement equipment does not comply with an applicable motor vehicle safety standard or contains a defect that relates to motor vehicle safety. 49 CFR 552.1. Upon receipt of a properly filed petition the agency conducts a technical review of the petition, material submitted with the petition, and any additional information. § 552.6. After considering the technical review and taking into account appropriate factors, which may

include, among others, allocation of agency resources, agency priorities, and the likelihood of success in litigation that might arise from a determination of a noncompliance or a defect related to motor vehicle safety, the agency will grant or deny the petition. § 552.8.

Petition Review—DP10–004

Section—2.0 Background Information

Ms. Lalitha Seetharaman of Newton, Pennsylvania (sometimes referred to as “Petitioner”), with the assistance of Mr. Emerick Bohmer, a friend of about a year, filed a petition on November 5, 2010 with NHTSA alleging that she was the driver of a model year (MY) 2005 Honda Accord Hybrid (subject vehicle), VIN JHMCM36425C005487, that experienced a brake failure. The petition states that the incident allegedly occurred on July 23, 2005, while braking and, at the same time, driving over rumble strips adjacent to her lane of travel on highway I–195 in New Jersey. In her petition, Ms. Seetharaman further alleges the brake failure resulted in a crash, fatally injuring her husband, Mr. Gautama Saroop (the front seat passenger), severely injuring the petitioner (the driver), and severely injuring the two occupants of a MY 1990 Ford Tempo vehicle that was struck by the petitioner’s vehicle.

In March of 2005, four months prior to the crash, Ms. Seetharaman purchased the subject vehicle as a birthday present for her husband. On the evening of the crash, Ms. Seetharaman, who also owns a 1999 Mazda Protégé as her normal usage vehicle, was driving the subject vehicle with her husband as the passenger from their home in Newtown, PA to Bellmawr, NJ. The events leading to the crash and the crash itself are described by Ms. Seetharaman in the petition document and in a vehicle owner questionnaire (VOQ) 10329383 submitted to NHTSA. The two documents contain similar summaries of the event. The Defect Petition, at page 39, states:

While traveling East on I–195, I saw that a Police Officer had a vehicle pulled over on the right shoulder of the highway. I moved over to the left lane in order to decrease any chance of an accident with the stopped vehicles. When I did, I crossed onto the rumble strip on the left side of the highway. I applied the brakes while on the rumble strip to bring the vehicle under control, and nothing happened (no brakes) and the vehicle accelerated uncontrollably.

I tried to bring the vehicle back on the highway. Both my husband and myself were hoping something would bring the vehicle under control. In a desperate attempt to bring the vehicle under control my husband pulled the emergency brake. Upon pulling the