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INSURERS TAKE ON TOYOTA IN ACCELERATION LAWSUITS

Brian Kabateck was quoted in a January 4, 2011 article about seven insurance companies filing of a lawsuit to recoup more than \$230,000 to cover crashes blamed on sudden acceleration. Allstate Corp. also sued Toyota late last year.

While Toyota brushed off the latest litigation and said disputes between automakers and insurance companies are common, legal experts say the world's No. 1 automaker can't be pleased that it's squaring off against an industry that knows its way around a courtroom.

Brian told the AP that insurers likely revel in suing another major entity because often times they find themselves as defendants. Although a potential payout will be a drop in their financial bucket, insurance companies are aware their involvement in a major lawsuit can have a significant impact.

"It's like giving a kid the keys to a candy store," Kabateck said. "If I was Toyota I would just groan."