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January 21, 2005

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National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
Washington, D.C. 20590

Subject: Brake Line Failure On 2000 Chevrolet Tahoe -- VIN:
1GNEK13TXYJ

To Whom It May Concern:

Please see attached copy of the dealership service department work order for the replacement of rusted through brake lines on my 2000 Chevrolet Tahoe (new body style).

I am writing this letter in the belief that my vehicle (and potentially other 2000 and later Tahoes, Yukons and Escalades) had a safety defect that could have resulted in a crash and possible serious injury.

Three days ago while performing a slow speed stop in a driveway a brake line on my 2000 Chevrolet Tahoe ruptured allowing the brake pedal to go virtually to the floor, and the distance needed to stop to increase dramatically. The dealership determined the cause of failure to be a rusted through brake line.

While rust is virtually inevitable in areas of high road salt usage such as Northeast Ohio, I believe rust through of a brake line on a vehicle with 75,495 miles and less than 5 years old is extremely premature and a serious safety defect. I hate to think what could have happened if the brake line had ruptured while trying to stop for someone in a crosswalk or a child running out from between some parked cars.

Although the manufacturer warrants this vehicle for 6 years or 100,000 miles against sheet metal rust-through, the dealership, after contacting the manufacturer at my request, advised me that the manufacturer considered the rust through of this brake line to be "under carriage rust" and that they were unable to prevent it.

Jessica
2/1/05

This response from the manufacturer has me concerned that they are not taking what I consider to be a very premature braking system failure and potentially deadly safety defect seriously enough. I hope for the safety of others that this was a safety related failure unique to my vehicle only, but I suspect it is not.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and please let me know if you require any additional information.

Sincerely, .

Concord, OH

**c: Chevrolet Motor Division
Chevrolet Customer Assistance Center
P.O. Box 7047
Troy, MI 48007-7047**

**THE ATTACHMENTS TO THIS
DOCUMENT HAVE BEEN REMOVED
TO PROTECT UNWARRANTED
INVASION OF PERSONAL PRIVACY
PURSUANT TO EXEMPTION 6 OF
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
ACT (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(6).**