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TRANSMISSION UNIT

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 7th Street SW
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Sir/Madam:

We are writing this letter at the suggestion of the Department of Consumer Protection of the State of Connecticut.

On March 29th last, we leased from the local Nissan dealer (D'Addario Nissan, Shelton, CT) a brand new 2005 Nissan automobile (Model Murano). On April 1st, my wife was driving on the Merritt Parkway and heard a "clunk" under the car. Seeing nothing rolling away from the car, she continued on to her destination. She then checked the tires and saw nothing amiss but smelled gasoline. She attributed the gasoline odor to the "new car aroma." When she returned to the car, she not only smelled gasoline but saw that gas was pouring from the gas tank forming a small pool under and around the car and running off in different directions.

This scenario prompted the fire department being called to smother the gas pooling and a clearing of the immediate area. The car was soon thereafter "flatbedded" back to the dealer for the necessary repairs. The repairs turned out to be the installation of a new gas tank at a substantial cost. The gas tank had a gaping 2-3 inch hole in it apparently caused by whatever it was that caused the "clunk."

We are concerned that the material used in the manufacture of the gas tank for this car was either defective or improper for the use intended. There is, in our opinion, no reason for ordinary highway debris puncturing a car gas tank in the way this tank was punctured and it further appears that the strength of the tank was insufficient to reject foreign material bombarding it. The resulting damage to life and property could be very serious.

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Accordingly, we respectfully request that your Administration look into the construction of, the materials used and the propriety of the tank for the purposes intended. We question the safety of the gas tank on the Nissan Murano and perhaps other models.

There is no law suit pending and there will be none commenced by us. This is strictly a matter of our concern that this could happen again to us or to others.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you.