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Jensen Beach, Florida
March 3, 2006

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

RE: 1999 Mitsubishi Mirage LS Coupe with VIN# JA3AY31C4

The above referenced car was purchased new from a Mitsubishi dealer in Fort Pierce, Florida in mid-1999 for my wife's use. It has been her main means of transportation for the past six-plus years, until recently when it was discovered that extensive corrosion had occurred underneath to the metal beam supporting the engine and transmission, and that she was in danger of serious injury.

The enclosed photographs, taken this past week, partly show the extent of the corrosion damage. At this point, the main engine support is not capable of supporting anything.

This vehicle is not yet seven (7) years old, and at 79,737 miles is still under the 7year/100,000 mile sheet metal rust-through warranty. In other words, rust in the external sheet metal is still covered under warranty; but the much more important frame and engine supports are not.

Usual parking for this vehicle is in the parking lot at our oceanfront condominium residence. While corrosion is significantly accelerated at our location compared to inland locations, I have never seen any other vehicle with the type of exaggerated corrosion problem that has taken place with this Mitsubishi. We have lived in this same condo for the past 17+ years and never seen any major corrosion to the frame and engine supports of any of the many other vehicles previously owned. In fact, within my lifetime, I have never seen any vehicle that has exhibited corrosion to this drastic extent to the frame and/or engine supports. This has to be a case of misapplication of materials by the manufacturer.

After only 6+ years the car cannot be driven safely. There must be thousands of cars with this similar condition, if the defective engine support is not unique to mine, since there have to be many other owners living at ocean-front locations...not to mention the similar corrosive conditions related to salting roads in many states in the north.

THIS VEHICLE IS A DEATH TRAP AND CAN NO LONGER BE DRIVEN. THE ENGINE AND TRANSMISSION ARE READY TO DROP TO THE ROAD AT ANY MINUTE ! THIS IS AN ABSURD SITUATION !

Sincerely,

Cc: Customer Service Department, Mitsubishi Motors of America, Inc.

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