

May 22, 2006

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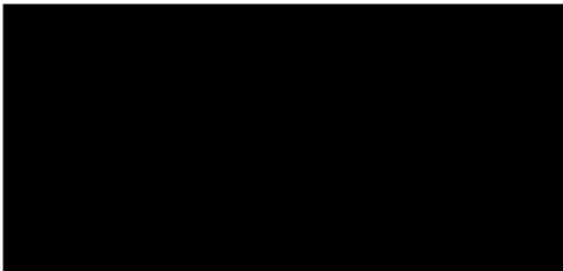
**NHTSA Headquarters  
400 Seventh Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20590**

**Toll-Free: 1-888-327-4236**

10159458

**Enclosed please find a copy of a letter I have sent to KIA. I believe that the exhaust problem in the 1999 KIA Sephia is a manufacture defect as well as an environmental hazard. Your pursuit of this problem will be greatly appreciated.**

**Thank you.**



*Edison  
6/5/06*

May 22, 2006

[REDACTED]  
Cadyville, NY [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Kia Motors America  
Consumer Affairs Dept.  
P.O. Box 52410  
Irvine, CA 92619-2410

In August of 1999 I purchased a 1999 Kia Sephia for my daughter. Since 1999, the brakes have been replaced, the transmission has been replaced, and the gas spillage problem was taken care of. I think there was a windshield wiper recall in there too. These were all warranted items that were taken care of prior to the 5 year 60,000 mile warranty running out.

Some of these problems were recalls. I see that you need to add one more recall to the list. The problem is your exhaust. There is a split in the centerpipe. Our understanding is that it is a piece of flexible hosing. The only problem is, you can't just buy this one little piece. You have to buy the whole pipe assembly. The car of course came with a new exhaust. In July of 2002, Berlin City fixed the problem at no charge. In April of 2004 I had to purchase the exhaust to fix it myself and what do we find in May of 2006? The same problem is occurring. Berlin City is determined to sell me the whole system. I am told that we can't just replace that one little piece that keeps splitting.

I have owned numerous vehicles in my lifetime. I have yet to experience the problems with these cars as I do with the KIA Sephia. Presently, I have a 1999 Suburu with 111,000 miles on it with the original exhaust. The KIA only has 66,000 miles on it and once again I am in a position where I have to once again replace the exhaust. Before you choose to blame the problem on corrosive winters, perhaps I should share with you that my daughter attended college in Gainesville, Georgia from 1999 – 2003. Not too many salty roads down there! Counting the exhaust that came with it in 1999 this will be the 4<sup>th</sup> exhaust on a vehicle that is less than seven years old.

I believe that this is a defect that exists with the 1999 KIA Sephia and I believe that your corporation is responsible for paying for repairs. Attached you will find a copy of a repair notice in 2003 and my receipt for parts I bought in 2004. I haven't priced the parts for 2006 but I can only guess that the price has gone up.

Sincerely,  
[REDACTED]

c.c. NYS Attorney General, Elliot Spitzer  
Berlin City Car Center

**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).**