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August 30, 2006

NHTSA

U.S. Department of Transportation
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Sirs,

We are writing to advise you of a recent incident involving our daughter's 2003 Oldsmobile Alero that we feel could be a safety issue for other owners of this type of vehicle. Approximately one month ago our 20 year old daughter was driving on a city street near our home in the Fort Worth area when she suddenly noticed severe steering problems (mostly the vehicle was drifting to one side and she had a lot of "play" with the steering wheel with no results). She was able to get the vehicle home but had to drive home slowly. My wife and I both drove a short distance and concurred we should take it immediately to a certified dealer for repair. Upon inspection the dealership informed us that there was a broken mount on the steering gear assembly on the right side and if the left side had broken she would not have been able to control the car as she would not have any steering available. We were also informed by the service advisor that the break was likely due to a sharp jolt (such as hitting a curb or pothole). However, we feel that the break was more likely due to faulty manufacturing as this vehicle has very low mileage (less than 25,000 miles) and was purchased in October 2002. This incident occurred a short time before our daughter was scheduled to leave for her junior year in college. We felt very fortunate that this happened while she was driving on a city street at a low speed and not on the Interstate bound for college driving with the normal flow of traffic.

Although the cost to have the vehicle repaired was quite considerable (over \$1100), our purpose of this letter is not to complain about the repair costs but rather bring this incident to your attention in hopes of preventing this from happening to someone who might be driving at a more accelerated speed. We would be glad to speak to someone directly about this or receive any feedback with your thought and concerns.

With Regards,

Hurst, Texas

Maria
9/12/06