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Richmond, CA [redacted]

September 6, 2006

NHTSA  
Attention: Office of Defects Investigation  
400 7th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: defective airbag system: 1998 Toyota Corolla

To Whom It Should Concern;

I purchased a 1998 Toyota Corolla VIN#1NXBR18E4WZ [redacted] in December of 2005. Shortly thereafter I took the vehicle to our local dealer because the airbag indicator lamp needed to be replaced. Once installed, the lamp immediately blinked continuously. A computer diagnostic indicated that the cause was a faulty airbag harness, needing replacement at a further cost of \$500.00. The dealer indicated that this problem is very common, indeed to be anticipated, in the 1998 model year.

Approximately one month ago, I filed a complaint in this regard at your online site. Recently, I went back to look up other complaints for this model year, and was astonished to find that your office has received dozens of such complaints about the 1998 Toyota Corolla airbag system dating from the vehicle's entrance to the marketplace in 1998 up to the present. These complaints also indicate that repairs to the system very often fail. (Indeed I suspect that the indicator lamp in our vehicle may have been removed by a previous owner or dealership after numerous attempts at repair were found unavailing.) Numerous post-accident complaints to ODI further indicate that indeed the airbags do not deploy under conditions of rapid deceleration during head-on and side-on collisions.

It is apparent from the lengthy and well-documented history of this vehicle that its airbag system is -- and has been from its initial design -- defective, and that such defect represents a very real risk to the safety and well-being of all owners of the 1998 Toyota Corolla. Indeed the available evidence suggests that a safety recall of this vehicle may have been warranted as far back as 1998. Yet I can find no indication on the NHTSA/ODI website that your office has taken any action whatever in this regard.

If your office has taken some action that I am unaware of, I would like to review your documentation of the process undertaken and its conclusions. If, on the other hand, it is indeed the case that no action has been taken to remedy this safety hazard, I would like an explanation for why this is the case. (A word search of the U.S. Constitution finds no mention of the term "corporation" or that the founding fathers recognized a need for such entity to be protected from the people by the government.) Finally, if no action has been undertaken, I request that an investigative process be initiated by your office at this time and that it, along with your analysis and conclusions, be documented and made available to the public.

I look forward to receiving your timely response.

Sincerely,

[redacted signature]

*Mewis*  
9/14/06