

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] Berkeley, CA [REDACTED]

September 20, 2006

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

Re: -----**SAFETY PROBLEM**-----
Tires Wear Out Easily/Anti-Trust Tie-In

Dear NHTSA Representative:

My wife and I purchased a new 2002 Prius from Toyota of Berkeley (California) in May 2002. Since the very beginning our Prius had tire problems requiring costly replacements or repairs. The tires for the Prius are special tires that can only be purchased at Toyota dealers. The customer is therefor compelled to pay a non-competitive price to replace the unsafe tires or go forward and danger himself/others.

On November 20, 2002, a tire needed to be patched. (See Exhibit A enclosed.)

On July 19, 2003, with only 16,975 miles on them, two tires had to be replaced. (See Exhibit B enclosed.)

On November 18, 2003, with only 19,371 miles on them the two other tires had to be replaced. (See Exhibit C enclosed.)

On August 5, 2004, with only 10,000 miles on them, the new tires had to be repaired. (See Exhibit D enclosed.)

On June 19, 2006, with only 40,000 miles on the other two new tires, they needed to be replaced. (See Exhibit E enclosed.)

Margaret
10/5/06

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
September 20, 2006
Page Two

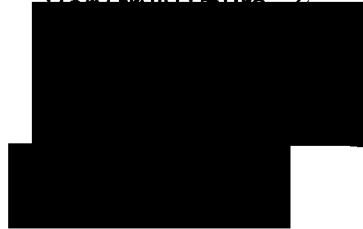
I believe such a record underscores both the safety issue and the antitrust/tie-in issue.

I have written to Toyota. The response was disingenuous. Toyota did not answer any of my questions, and merely thanked me for my letter.

I respectfully request that NHTSA provide me with a written response to this letter; a status report as to what is done (or whether nothing is done), and updates if action is taken. Please respond as soon as practicable.

I thank you in advance for your attention to this safety problem and your courtesy in responding to this letter.

Very truly yours,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature and name of the sender.A small black rectangular redaction box covering the name of the sender.

Encl.

**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).**