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Millersville, MD
November 9, 2006

Department of Transportation
Auto Safety Division
400 7th St SW
Washington D.C.

10174329

To Whom This May Concern;

At approximately 7:45 AM on the morning of November 9, 2006, without any warning, my 2005 Volkswagen Jetta GL caught on fire as I was driving north on Maryland Interstate Route 97. I noticed smoke, looked into the passenger side mirror and was shocked to see flames shooting out of rear passenger side of my car. I, immediately, pulled off the highway in the passing breakdown lane and ran quickly away from the vehicle, as the area engulfed in flames was in close proximity to the gas tank and I feared an explosion was imminent.

One of the motorists that came to my assistance extinguished the fire. After the fire trucks and State Police arrived on the scene, I contacted my insurance carrier, Geico, and the car was towed to Antwerpen, the Volkswagen dealership at 8065 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena, MD, 21122, where the car had been purchased. When my car arrived at the Volkswagen dealership, I spoke to Charles Summers, the Body Shop Manager, who can be reached at [REDACTED] and was very alarmed when he mentioned "We have been having a lot of electrical problems regarding taillights recently." How can an issue of this magnitude not have merited immediate resolution as I could have been seriously injured or even killed had I not responded so quickly to the spontaneous combustion that occurred with this vehicle?

The State Trooper at the scene was, Officer Gagnon, who can be reached is [REDACTED] if you have any further questions. Please refer to case number is [REDACTED]. As Officer Gagnon could not remain at the fire scene for an hour to wait for the tow truck to arrive, the amount of time it would take the towing company Geico advised me to call, the Geico agent, Kimberly Coldwell, advised me to call another towing company and send the bill to Geico for reimbursement. She stated this was a "No Fault Comprehensive Loss" and was a wonderful help and extremely supportive at this difficult time. The towing company that responded was White-Huff Towing Service, Inc. Please find the attached receipt for this service as well as pictures of the damages sustained to my vehicle. I look forward to a timely resolution of this terribly frightful event.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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11/21/06

