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NVS-2007

March 26, 2007

National Highway Transportation Safety Administration
US Department of Transportation
Washington DC 20590

Gentlemen,

I own a 2000 Chevrolet Malibu Sedan, VIN 1G1NE52J1Y [REDACTED] that I bought new in Jan 2000 from Shearer Chevrolet South Burlington VT. The vehicle has 117,000 miles on it, is generally good condition and has been well maintained. With the exception of persistent problems with the brakes the car has provided good service.

During a service call, my local mechanic discovered what I believe is a serious safety problem. The bracket that is welded to the K frame and holds the right steering arm is almost completely rusted through. The bracket on the left side is also rusted. If these brackets (or even one of these brackets) were to give way the steering of the car could fail. The implications of that are both dire and obvious. Despite the fact that the car is seven years old and I live in Vermont where salt is used on the roads there is very little rust on any other part of the underside of the car. It is only this particular part that is rusted almost through. I therefore believe that this part is defective.

I have described this to the Chevrolet Customer Assistance Program and to my dealer and I transported this car to Shearer Chevrolet with the request that General Motors replace the K frame at their expense. It was inspected by Mr. Denis McConnell, the regional GM representative. GM declined to repair the car at their expense.

I am transporting the car to an auto-repair facility for repair at my expense. I will retain the K frame should you care to inspect it.

I am informing you of this condition on my car because I believe that should this rusting condition appear on other vehicles of the same platform other motorists could be exposed to a serious safety hazard. It is my belief that GM should (and I so informed Chevrolet, my dealer and the GM representative) recall all vehicles of this particular platform type, especially those in areas where road salt is used, and inspect them for this condition.

Yours truly,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Essex Junction VT [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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11-2-07 10:00 AM

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