

[REDACTED]
Stone Ridge, NY [REDACTED]
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2008 SEP 25 PM 3:10

CL-10241307-6138

September 8, 2008

Mr. John Abbott
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Abbott:

Thank for your phone call this morning. It was a pleasure speaking with you. I know I may be "jumping the gun" but nonetheless I enclose a copy of the letter I wrote to Mini Cooper of North America and I enclose photos of the burn on my leg and how it happened. (A re-creation/demonstration).

I also sent a copy of the letter and photos to my Congressman, The Honorable Maurice Hinchey, whom I am on fairly friendly terms with and whose re-election I endorse.

Please feel free to contact me again if you have other questions regarding this issue.

Regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Enc: photos

ET 3:11
9/25/08
NJ

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Stone Ridge, NY [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

September 8, 2008

MINI of North America, LLC
P.O. Box 1227
Westwood, NJ 07675-1227

To Whom It May Concern:

In accordance with the instructions found on Page Six of my MINI OWNER'S MANUAL, I am writing to inform you of a what I believe is a serious defect in my 2008 Mini Cooper

As instructed, I notified the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration of this defect on September 5, 2008.

The defect in question is the **tail pipe** on the back of my Mini Cooper, which **protrudes** beyond the bumper. But you already know that.

On Wednesday, September 3, 2008 I leaned into the back of my Mini to retrieve grocery bags and my bare leg came into contact with the tail pipe and I received a very bad burn.

I had no idea that pain from your lower leg could shoot straight through the top of your head. After emitting a blood-curdling scream and managing not to faint, I looked at my leg and saw a perfect, bright red half circle where only a nano-second ago, I had had flawless skin. I will have this crescent shaped scar on my leg for the rest of my life from this burn. (Photos enclosed.)

Your tailpipe is a defective design and it is dangerous and I don't mean maybe. Take a look around yourselves! When was the last time ANY of you saw tailpipes extending from cars? ANY cars? I've been keeping my eyes peeled ever since I got my leg burned and I have yet to see a single vehicle of any kind that has a tailpipe that sticks out. Mostly, I can't even SEE tailpipes on cars.

I have done my homework and know that I am not alone in the "leg-burned-by-their-Mini-Cooper" world. Testimonials of people who have been burned by the tail pipes of their Mini Coopers abound on the Internet.

Furthermore, I received a phone call first thing this morning from Mr. John Abbott, of the NHTSA who asked me to file a formal complaint and then informed me that an "alleged safety investigation" has been underway regarding the tail pipes of Mini Coopers since

April of this year and that as of September 3, 2008, the date that I got burned (how coincidental!) the investigation has been "upgraded".

Here's a scenario for you: a small child toddles over to a Mini Cooper tail pipe, which is disguised as a nice, round **not-hot-looking silver tube** and the youngster decides to give it a hug? Let me tell you: I've raised two children and I know for a fact that toddlers do the most unimaginable, unpredictable bizarre things and they do them at lightening speed. Perhaps you aren't worried about adults burning their legs but let me assure you if a child gets burned by your defective tailpipe design the consequences for your Company might be disastrous.

How dare you not take action regarding this matter, which you KNOW ABOUT. This dangerous defect has already caused injury to countless people and yet you remain silent? Your job is to inform current owners and future buyers of this defect immediately.

I believe the media would be very interested in seeing the photos of my leg, especially the Automobile Section of The New York Times.

I look forward to a prompt reply from you regarding the injury I sustained and how I might avoid incurring a second one. In addition, I wonder how I might have this ugly scar removed from my leg.



enc: Four 4x6 color photos

cc: Mr. John Abbott
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590
(Photos Enclosed)

cc: The Honorable Mr. Maurice Hinchey
211 Wall Street
Kingston, NY 12404
(Photos Enclosed)





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