

[REDACTED]
Highland Park, N.J. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

March 10, 2014

HANKOOK TIRE AMERICA CORPORATION
Consumer Affairs
1450 Valley Road
Wayne, NJ 07470

MAR 20 2014

Department of Transportation
Office of Defects Investigation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE,
West Building
Washington DC 20590 USA

Kia Motors America
Consumer Affairs Dept.
P.O. Box 52410 Irvine, CA 92619-2410

Re: Hankook Optimo H431 All Season Tires

To Whom It May Concern:

I am the owner of a 2012 Kia Optima LX which comes equipped with Hankook Optimo H431 "All Season" tires. The car has 10,000 miles which mostly consists of local driving. This past January, while pulling away from a stop sign on a snow covered, but plowed street, my car went into a very dangerous skid in a busy intersection. I completely lost control of the car while going 5 miles per hour. Fortunately, at that moment, there was not another car, or person nearby, but while the car was skidding, I crashed into the diagonal street corner and causing my rear fender to be scraped and the tires misaligned. This was not the only incident while driving on wet roads. In fact, on several occasions, the car has skidded and hydroplaned always causing me to lost control of the vehicle.

I took the car to be serviced and have not used it again when the roads are snow and iced covered. Today, I noticed that there is a bulge in the rear tire that did not hit the curb. Now that tire has to be replaced. In fact, all the tires must be replaced so that the car can be driven in "all weather." There is clearly as structural defect with these tires which can result in very serious accidents.

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I have researched user reviews of these tires, and have found that I am not alone. There are numerous examples of other drivers having bad and dangerous experiences with these tires. I urge you to recall these tires before people are either seriously injured, or killed as a result of the tires insufficiency and defects. I also urge Kia not equip their cars with these tires. These tires result in dangerous driving. Please examine reviews at the following link:

<http://www.tirerack.com/survey/SurveyComments.jsp?additionalComments=y&commentStatus=P&tireMake=Hankook&tireModel=Optimo+H431&tirePageLocQty=%26partnum%3D245VR8H431XL>

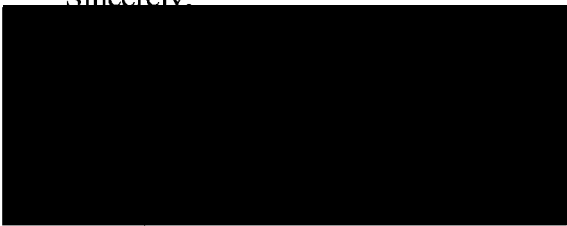
Hankook, you have violated your Code of Ethics:

“Under the banner “Contribute to Advancement in Driving: Making Life Better for Everyone through Safe Technology and Pleasant Driving,” Hankook Tire is committed to becoming a leading global tire company that contributes to the safety and welfare of humanity by providing top-quality products and services.”

If you would like to inspect the tires and the damage done to my car before replacement and repair, please contact me at the information below, and I would welcome your analysis of the safety of these tires.

Again, I urge you to recall these tires.

Sincerely,



DW DANIELS

NO 070

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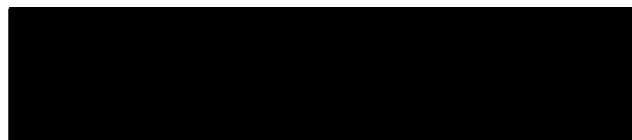
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