



U.S. Department of Transportation
**National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration**



February 1, 2021

[REDACTED]

Long Valley, NJ [REDACTED]

NEF-109 tgd
Ref. No. 11388034

Dear [REDACTED]:

Thank you for the letter about your model year (MY) 2012 Hyundai Sonata vehicle. Your letter was received in the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Defects Investigation. I am pleased to respond.

NHTSA is the Federal agency responsible for improving safety on our Nation's highways. We are authorized to order manufacturers to recall and repair vehicles or motor vehicle equipment when our investigations indicate that they contain safety defects in their design, construction, or performance. We also monitor the completion rates and adequacy of manufacturers' recall campaigns.

We appreciate the report you provided. Reports from motorists are a very important source of information for NHTSA. Chapter 301 of Title 49 of the United States Code (U.S.C.) requires a manufacturer of motor vehicles or motor vehicle equipment that contains a defect relating to motor vehicle safety or fails to comply with a Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard to remedy the defect or noncompliance without charge. However, our statute does not require manufacturers to reimburse owners for additional costs associated with a safety recall such as rental or lease vehicles and towing expenses. Nor does the statute authorize the Federal government to reimburse vehicle owners for additional costs associated with safety recalls or assist vehicle owners in obtaining reimbursements for additional costs associated with an alleged defect.

In addition, NHTSA does not participate in private tort litigation nor do we have any authority to enforce the terms of settlements from lawsuits. However, we entered your information into NHTSA's database, where it will be used with other reports to identify any safety defect trends that may require our attention. You can learn more about NHTSA's investigation and recall process on our website at https://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.dot.gov/files/documents/mvdefectsandrecalls_808795.pdf.

We encourage you to continue to work with Hyundai and your dealer to explore the potential for an amicable resolution to your problem. You may ask your dealership for a meeting with a Hyundai district manager regarding your problem. You may also consider contacting your local Consumer Protection Agency or the New Jersey Attorney General's Office regarding your problem and rights under state law. In addition, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) regulates and investigates warranty and dealership problems, reimbursement matters, and fair trade practices. Therefore, if you believe this issue potentially relates to such a practice, you may

contact the FTC to discuss the matter. There are three ways to contact the FTC: by toll free telephone at 877-382-4357; by mail at Federal Trade Commission, CRC-240, Washington, DC 20580; and by using the Internet complaint form at www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov.

Finally, you may also consider contacting the Better Business Bureau (BBB) Auto Line. The BBB offers free mediation/arbitration to resolve warranty disputes under guidelines established by the FTC. Remedies include repair, reimbursement, repurchase or replacement, depending on program eligibility. You can visit their website at www.bbb.org to file a complaint and review eligibility information, or call the BBB Auto Line at 800-955-5100.

If you encounter a safety-related problem with a motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment in the future, please complete an electronic Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire online at www.nhtsa.gov or call the Vehicle Safety Hotline at 888-327-4236. Also, owners' complaints, safety recalls, manufacturers' service bulletins, etc. can be reviewed on our website.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Randy Reid".

Randy Reid, Chief
Correspondence Research Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement