

NHSTA

1200 New Jersey Ave., SE

Washington, DC 20590

To whom it may concern:

This letter addresses a serious safety concern regarding BMW 2024 RAB (rear automatic brake) not properly functioning.

I purchased this year 2 BMW 2024 models: 540i xDrive and X-3 sDrive.

I'm extremely familiar with the RAB technology on BMW and other manufacturer's vehicles.

During the past 23 years I've had various BMW models. Further, since the RAB feature has been available I have had that option in each vehicle. It has always worked to perfection. I've had many instances where I could have been in accidents backing out of parking spaces if not for this option.

Further, I also currently have a Subaru Forester with the RAB. It also works to perfect. Again, I am very familiar with how this option should work on Subaru cars.

PROBLEM: the RAB on the 2024 vehicles DOES NOT WORK! I recently had an incident because the vehicle never stopped as I backed out of my parking space. I believed that it might only be my vehicle with the RAB problem.

I later discussed this issue with my wife that drives the 2024 X-3. She then informed me that she too almost backed into a pedestrian.

Previously owned BMW vehicles with the RAB feature were extremely sensitive. I have a 1-1/4" raised garage floor to protect from rain entering. ALL of my previous BMW's required that I back into the garage while rolling and intermittently braking otherwise it would abruptly slam the brake. You couldn't simply roll without braking otherwise it would slam the brake (almost to the point that it would seem like whiplash- not really).

I tested the RAB by perpendicularly slowly walking behind the car. I had to run out of the way when the vehicle was continuing to move when approximately 12" from me. I tested both vehicles, 540i & X-3, with the same results.

As a further test I placed a plastic figure that's ordinarily used a warning to drivers of children playing in the area. Results while slowly backing was that both vehicles hit (bumped) the little green "man".



I brought both vehicles to BMW to service this issue. BMW dealer in Wesley Chapel stated there's nothing wrong with the feature. I suggested that if there wasn't a problem with the RAB that the service manager, Mr. Doonan, stand behind my vehicle while I let the car rolled backwards. Of course I didn't expect him to do that but was making a point. He wouldn't do it which indicated that he didn't actually believe his very own statements.

I believe that this is a serious safety hazard. A serious safety hazard that BMW is not willing to address.

My hope is that NHSTA will research and address this safety issue and contact BMW to allow them the opportunity to provide a remedy.

The vehicles have multiple sensors and cameras that could facilitate a solution. After all, this is the first time the issue has arisen. I'm a simple layman but common sense would seem that a relatively simple program change could resolve this problem.

I pray that you accept my extreme safety concern for all BMW drivers, pedestrians, and other vehicles who come into (figurative) contact with a BMW vehicle.

Of course, I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to speak with someone at NHSTA regarding this issue. My contact information is below.

Thank you!

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Brooksville, FL. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

P.S. This problem is in conjunction with a brake system NHSTA recall that BMW currently has no resolution. In a letter I was informed that this issue is potentially dangerous; yet, they don't have the part to correct the dangerous recall; nor any timeframe when the resolution "might" be available.



Brooksville, FL

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