

RECEIVED



To: All Subaru Dealers  
Attn: Service Manager  
From: Subaru of America, Inc.  
Date: March 5, 2007

2007 MAR 05, 11:34 AM

### **Subject: WVC-13 Passenger Front Seat Wiring Safety Recall**

Subaru of America, Inc. has initiated a voluntary Safety Recall to inspect and possibly repair the passenger front seat wiring on approximately 7,000 2006MY Forester and Impreza models. Campaign code WVC-13 has been assigned to this Safety Recall.

Affected vehicles may have been produced with an improperly routed electrical wiring harness. The harness may have been pinched against the passenger front seat mounting bolt during production. If the wiring harness was improperly installed, an electrical short could occur.

**There are two safety risks associated with this condition. The first is that the passenger's front air bag, which is connected to this wiring harness, could become disabled, in which case it would not deploy as designed in an accident and would therefore expose the right front passenger to the possibility of serious injuries. The second is that an electrical short circuit could, under some circumstances, cause a fire.**

If an electrical short circuit occurs in this wiring harness, fuse #6 (located in the fuse panel on the lower left side of the dashboard) will "blow", disabling the passenger front air bag. This could occur at any time and without prior warning. But once it occurs, the driver will be alerted to this condition by the illumination of the air bag system warning light on the vehicle's instrument panel. Occupants will also be alerted to this condition if the passenger's frontal air bag ON/OFF indicator indicates "OFF" even if an adult passenger is occupying that seat.

If fuse #6 had previously blown and been replaced with no repair made to correct the underlying cause, there is a possibility that this wiring harness has already been damaged due to a short circuit. Under these circumstances, the new replacement fuse may not blow and a fire could occur at any time without warning. In Forester models, it could happen even if the ignition switch is in the "LOCK" (off) position.

Vehicle owners will be advised in the Owner Notification Letter that if they encounter a blown fuse, an illuminated air bag system warning light, smell smoke, or have replaced a blown fuse #6 without correcting the underlying problem, to not operate the vehicle. They will be advised to contact the nearest Subaru dealer as soon as possible for guidance. In these cases, dealers should arrange to have the vehicle towed and repairs performed immediately.

This recall will involve inspection and possible repair of the front passenger seat wire harness. Please refer to the Service Procedure section of the Product Campaign Bulletin for more details.

#### **General information concerning this Safety Recall:**

- Campaign Bulletin WVC-13 has been posted on the [Techinfo.Subaru.com](http://Techinfo.Subaru.com) website. The Bulletin contains additional information concerning identification of affected vehicles, repair and claim submission procedures.
- On or around March 5, 2007, dealers will be mailed affected VIN lists along with a supply of campaign completion labels.
- On or around March 9, 2007, owner notification letters will be mailed.

**ATTENTION:**  
GENERAL MANAGER   
PARTS MANAGER   
CLAIMS PERSONNEL   
SERVICE MANAGER

IMPORTANT - All Service Personnel Should Read and Initial in the boxes provided, right.




**SUBARU.**

QUALITY DRIVEN<sup>B</sup> SERVICE

**PRODUCT CAMPAIGN BULLETIN**

**APPLICABILITY:** 2006MY Subaru Forester & Impreza      **NUMBER:** WVC-13  
**SUBJECT:** Front Passenger Seat Wiring                      **DATE:** March 2007

**INTRODUCTION**

Subaru of America, Inc. (SOA) has determined that certain 2006 MY Subaru Forester and Impreza models may have been produced with an improperly routed electrical wiring harness. That harness could have been pinched against the passenger front seat mounting bolt during production. If the wiring harness was improperly installed, an electrical short could occur.

There are two safety risks associated with this condition. The first is that the passenger's front air bag, which is connected to this wiring harness, could become disabled, in which case it would not deploy as designed in an accident and would therefore expose the right front passenger to the possibility of serious injuries. The second is that an electrical short circuit could, under some circumstances, cause a fire.

If an electrical short circuit occurs in this wiring harness, fuse #6 (located in the fuse panel on the lower left side of the dashboard) will "blow", disabling the passenger front air bag. This could occur at any time and without prior warning. But once it occurs, the driver will be alerted to this condition by the illumination of the air bag system warning light on the vehicle's instrument panel. Occupants will also be alerted to this condition if the passenger's frontal air bag ON/OFF indicator indicates "OFF" even if an adult passenger is occupying that seat.

If fuse #6 had previously blown and been replaced with no repair made to correct the underlying cause, there is a possibility that this wiring harness has already been damaged due to a short circuit. Under these circumstances, the new replacement fuse may not blow and a fire could occur at any time without warning. In Forester models, it could happen even if the ignition switch is in the "LOCK" (off) position.

Vehicle owners will be advised in the Owner Notification Letter that if they encounter a blown fuse, an illuminated air bag system warning light, smell smoke, or have replaced a blown fuse #6 without correcting the underlying problem, to not operate the vehicle. They will be advised to contact the nearest Subaru dealer as soon as possible for guidance. In these cases, dealers should arrange to have the vehicle towed and repairs performed immediately.

This recall will involve inspection and possible repair of the front passenger seat wire harness. Please refer to the Service Procedure section of this bulletin for more details.

*continued...*

**CAUTION: VEHICLE SERVICING PERFORMED BY UNTRAINED PERSONS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY TO THOSE PERSONS OR TO OTHERS.**  
Subaru Service Bulletins are intended for use by professional technicians ONLY. They are written to inform those technicians of conditions that may occur in some vehicles, or to provide information that could assist in the proper servicing of the vehicle. Properly trained technicians have the equipment, tools, safety instructions, and know-how to do the job correctly and safely. If a condition is described, DO NOT assume that this Service Bulletin applies to your vehicle, or that your vehicle will have that condition.



## AFFECTED VEHICLES

- 2006 MY Subaru Forester and Impreza

Potentially affected vehicles are identified in the VIN range chart below. Not all vehicles within the VIN range are affected. Prior to performing repairs, confirm coverage for potentially affected vehicles by using the Vehicle Coverage Inquiry in the Dealer Communication System (DCS).

	MODEL	FROM	TO
2006MY	Forester	6*700001	6*711059
	Impreza Sedan	6*500001	6*501320
	Impreza Wagon	6*800001	6*800726

\* Various Characters may occupy this position

## OWNER NOTIFICATION

SOA will prepare and mail Owner Notification Letters to owners of affected vehicles on or around March 9, 2007.

A copy of the Owner Notification Letter is included at the end of this bulletin

## DEALER PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITY

Dealers are to promptly service all vehicles subject to this recall at no charge to the vehicle owner regardless of mileage, age of the vehicle, or ownership.

For affected vehicles sold after the date on the dealer's affected list, dealers are to contact those owners and provide them with a copy of the owner notification letter. They should also arrange to make the required correction according to the instructions in the service procedure section of this bulletin.

Dealers are also to promptly perform the applicable service procedures defined in this bulletin to correct all affected vehicles in their inventory (new, used, demo). Additionally, whenever a vehicle subject to this recall is taken into dealer new or used inventory, or is in the dealership for service, necessary steps should be taken to ensure the service program correction has been made before selling or releasing the vehicle.

## PARTS INFORMATION

### Special Tools and Materials

- Soldering gun and solder
- Heat gun
- 1.5 inch wide unwoven adhesive tape
- Subaru Global Terminal Wiring Kit J-47606
  - Electrical tape
  - @Electricshrink wrap tubing

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## SERVICE PROCEDURE

This Recall will involve inspection of the front passenger seat wiring for proper routing. It will also involve repair of the affected wire harness if the inspection reveals pinched wiring.

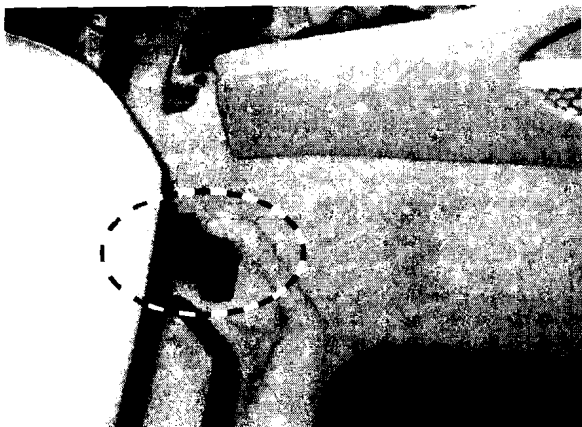
### Service Procedure

The first part of the procedure involves inspecting the wiring harness for proper routing and possible damage. (There are two separate procedures, one for each different vehicle.)

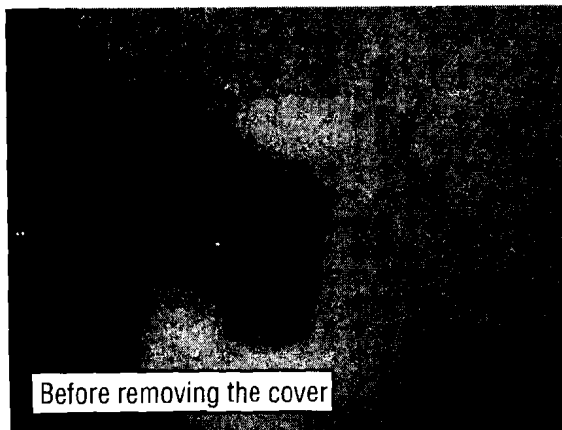
If there is no damage to the wiring harness, no repair is necessary. If the wiring harness is found to be damaged, then follow the repair procedure beginning on page 5.

### Forester Inspection Procedure (See the next page for the Impreza inspection procedure.)

1. Slide the front passenger seat to the rear most position to expose the front of the slide rail.

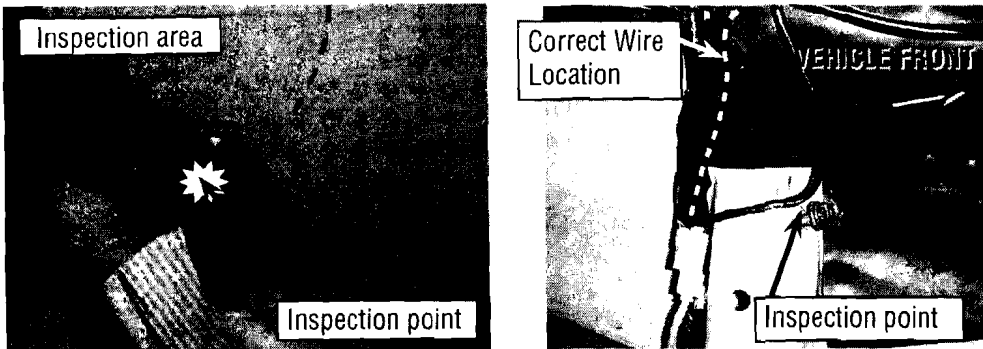


2. Pull up the seat slide rail cover from the center console side as indicated by the arrows.



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3. Check visually and with your fingers in the area indicated by broken lines to confirm that the body wiring harness (for power to the occupant detection ECU) is not located and/or pinched around the seat bracket.

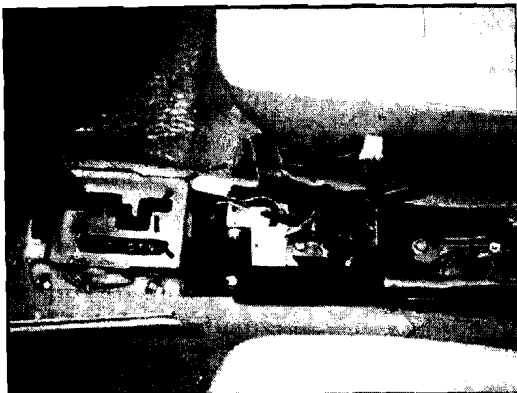


4. If the wire is found to be located properly (not pinched), reinstall the seat slide rail cover. No further action is required. If the wire is found to be pinched, proceed to the "Wiring Repair Procedure" beginning on page 5.

### **Impreza Inspection Procedure**

1. Remove the center console trim between the select lever and the parking brake lever. If necessary, refer to the applicable service manual for removal instructions.
2. Cut the cross section of floor carpet in the center and in front of the parking brake lever with scissors (as shown, below).

**Note: Be careful not to damage wires around the work area.**

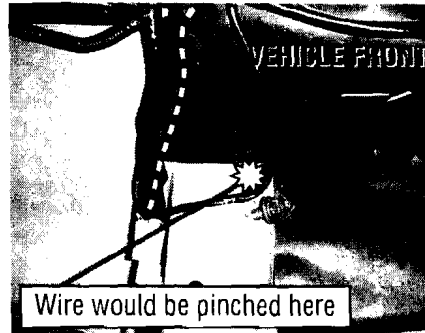
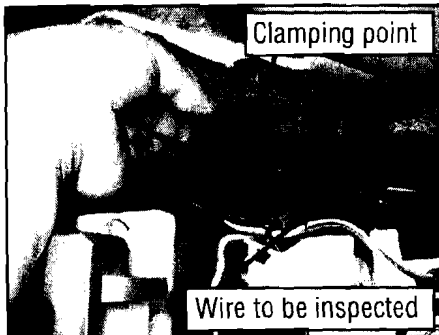


- Pull up the floor carpet to inspect a section of the subject body wiring harness from the clamping point located behind the shifter console down to the front passenger seat slide rail as indicated in the photo to the left, on the next page.
- Check visually and with your fingers to confirm that the wire is not located around the seat bracket area as indicated by the arrow in the photo to the right, on the next page.

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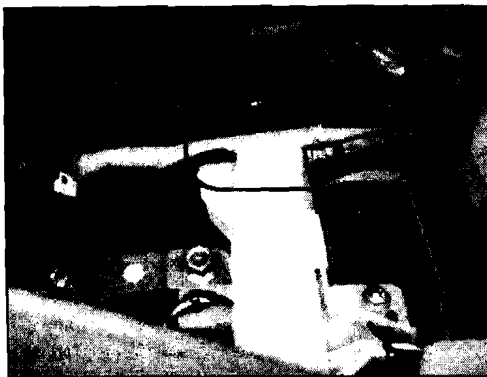
The proper wire location (not pinched) is indicated by broken lines in the photo to the right, below.

- If the wire was found to be pinched, proceed to the "Wiring Repair Procedure" section, below.



3. If the wire was found to be located properly (not pinched), no repair is necessary. Reinstall the floor carpet. Wrap the previously cut portion of carpet with 1.5 inch wide unwoven adhesive tape.
4. Reinstall the center console trim.

**Note: Be careful that the seat heater switch is not pinched by the parking brake lever during reinstallation.**



5. Confirm that switches, including the seat heater switch, work properly.

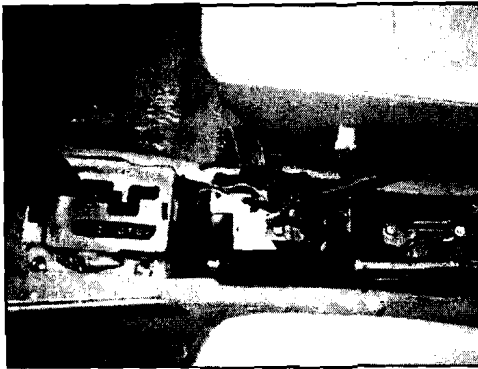
### **Wiring Repair Procedure: Forester & Impreza**

1. Disconnect the negative battery cable. Note: In the interest of customer satisfaction, please write down all radio preset stations prior to disconnecting the battery. The stations should be reset into the radio after completion of the repair.
2. **For Impreza models, proceed to step 4.**

**Forester Models only:** Remove the center console trim between the select lever and parking brake lever.

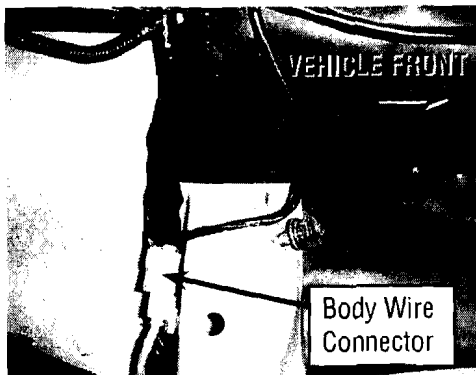
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3. **Forester only:** Cut a cross section of floor carpet at the center in front of the parking brake lever with scissors as shown.



**Note:** Be careful not to damage wires around the working area.

4. **Impreza and Forester:** Remove the passenger front seat and disconnect the body wire connector after pulling up the floor carpet.



**Note:** Check if the wire is pinched at the seat rail and damaged.

5. Repair the wire according to the extent of damage as indicated below.

(1) When only the surface of the wire covering is damaged only: Wrap electrical tape around the damaged portion. proceed to Step 7.

(2) When the core wire is cut or damaged: Cut and remove the damaged section of wire, as illustrated.



(3) Peel the wire covering 5/8 inch (15mm) from the tip of cut wire and expose the core wires, as illustrated.



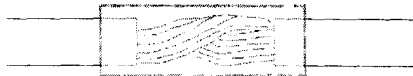
**continued...**

(4) Install heat shrink tubing on one side of the cut wiring.

(5) Twist the core wires together so that they entwine each other. Be careful to ensure the tips of the wires are level and parallel. Otherwise, the wire will break through the heat shrink tubing.

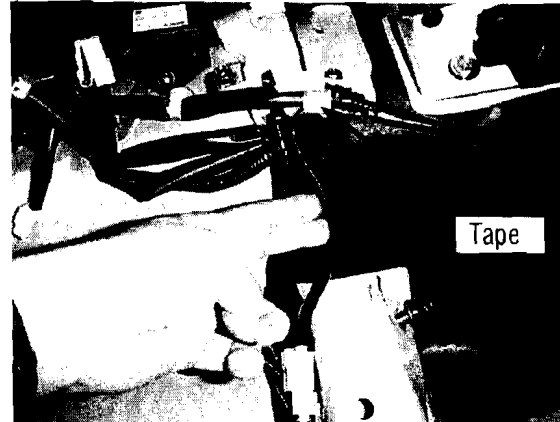
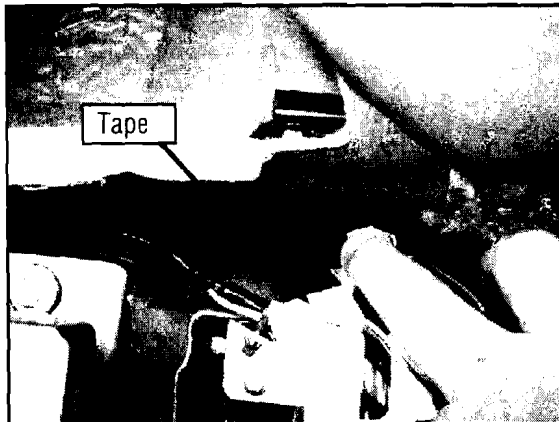


(6) Solder the twisted wires and activate the heat shrink tubing with a heat gun. Confirm that no frayed wires are visible.



6. Reconnect the body wire connector.

7. Attach the repaired body wire harness to the area directly rearward of the wire clamp with insulating tape to prevent the wire from interfering with the seat rail. (See photos below for location of the wire and tape.)



8. Reinstall the floor carpet. Wrap the previously cut portion of carpet with 1.5 inch wide unwoven adhesive tape.



9. Reinstall the center console trim.

**Note: Be careful that switch wires attached to the center console trim are not pinched by the parking brake lever during installation.**



10. Reinstall the passenger front seat. (Install the seat slide rail cover on Forester model.)
11. Reconnect the negative battery cable. (Reprogram the customer's radio stations presets.)
12. Perform Seat Occupant Detection System calibration. (See applicable service manual.)  
 Note: Impreza models have the bladder type system which will require re-zeroing. Forester models have the load sensor type system which requires re-calibration.
13. Turn on the ignition switch and confirm that the seat heater switches and the air bag warning light works properly.

## SERVICE PROGRAM IDENTIFICATION LABEL

Type or print the necessary information on a recall identification label. The completed label should be attached to the vehicle's upper radiator support.

Additional labels are available through the Customer Dealer Services Department (CDS) at 1-866-782-2782.

Campaign Code
COMPLETED
DIST./DEALER NO.
SERIAL NO.
DO NOT REMOVE

## CLAIM REIMBURSEMENT AND ENTRY PROCEDURES

Credit to perform this recall will be based on the submission of properly completed repair order information. Dealers may enter the applicable claim information through their Dealer Communications System.

**Inspect** - Use the applicable claim submission information for inspection of passenger front seat wire harness.

**Repair Wiring** - Use the additional claim submission information for repair of the passenger front seat wire harness.

CLAIM TYPE	CAMPAIGN CODE	LABOR OPERATION NUMBER	LABOR TIME IMPREZA	LABOR TIME FORESTER	LABOR OPERATION
RC	WVC-13	B 188-008	0.3 hrs	0.2 hrs	Inspection Only
		C 188-018	0.5 hrs	0.7 hrs	Repair wiring: Includes removal of front passenger seat, and recalibration of the occupant detection sensor.

## CUSTOMER LETTER

Subaru of America, Inc.  
Subaru Plaza  
P.O. Box 6000  
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034-6000  
www.subaru.com

Important Safety Recall Notice  
Subaru Recall Campaign WVC-13  
NHTSA Recall No. 07V-043  
March 2007

Dear Subaru Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. SUBARU OF AMERICA, INC. has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2006 model year Subaru Forester and Impreza vehicles.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE SAFETY DEFECT

Subaru has determined that your vehicle could have been manufactured with an improperly routed electrical wiring harness. That harness could have been pinched against the passenger front seat mounting bolt during production. If the wiring harness was improperly installed, an electrical short could occur.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE SAFETY HAZARDS

There are two safety risks associated with this condition. The first is that the passenger's front air bag, which is connected to this wiring harness, could become disabled, in which case it would not deploy as designed in an accident and would therefore expose the right front passenger to the possibility of serious injuries. The second is that an electrical short circuit could, under some circumstances, cause a fire.

If an electrical short circuit occurs in this wiring harness, fuse #6 (located in the fuse panel on the lower left side of the dashboard) will "blow", disabling the passenger front air bag. This could occur at any time and without prior warning. But once it occurs, you will be alerted to this condition by the illumination of the air bag system warning light on your vehicle's instrument panel. You will also be alerted to this condition if the passenger's frontal air bag ON/OFF indicator indicates "OFF" even if an adult passenger is occupying that seat.

If fuse #6 had previously blown and been replaced with no repair made to correct the underlying cause, there is a possibility that this wiring harness has already been damaged due to a short circuit. Under these circumstances, the new replacement fuse may not blow and a fire could occur at any time without warning. In Forester models, it could happen even if the ignition switch is in the "LOCK" (off) position.

If you encounter a blown fuse, an illuminated air bag system warning light, smell smoke, or have replaced a blown fuse #6 without correcting the underlying problem, do not operate the vehicle. Contact your nearest Subaru dealer as soon as possible for guidance.

## REPAIRS

To correct this condition, Subaru will inspect and if necessary, repair and reposition the wire harness at no cost to you.

## WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

You should immediately contact your Subaru Dealer for an appointment to have this wire harness routing inspected and any related repairs performed at no cost to you.

## HOW LONG WILL THE REPAIR TAKE?

The actual time to inspect the wiring is approximately 20 minutes. It may take an additional 45 minutes if the wiring requires repositioning and/or repair. However, it may be necessary to leave your vehicle the full day of your scheduled appointment to allow your dealer flexibility in scheduling. Please present this letter to your Subaru Dealer at the time this repair procedure is performed.

## CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS OR SOLD YOUR SUBARU?

If you have moved or sold your vehicle, please complete the enclosed prepaid postcard and mail it to us.

## IF YOU NEED FURTHER ASSISTANCE:

To locate the nearest Subaru Dealer you can access our website at [www.Subaru.com](http://www.Subaru.com) and select "Find a Dealer". Or, you may call us at 1-800-SUBARU3 (1-800-782-2783) during normal business hours for assistance. Please call us immediately if the dealer fails or is unable to make the necessary repairs free of charge or write to the address listed on the first page of this letter.

You may also contact the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20590 or call the toll free Auto Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 or go to <http://www.safercar.gov> if you believe the dealer has failed or is unable to remedy your vehicle without charge within a reasonable amount of time.

Your continued satisfaction with your Subaru is important to us. Please understand that we have taken this action in the interest of your safety and your vehicle's proper operation. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this matter may cause and urge you to schedule an appointment as soon as possible to have this repair performed.

Sincerely,  
Subaru of America, Inc.

### *Notice to Lessors*

*Under Federal law the lessor of a vehicle who receives this letter must provide a copy of it to the vehicle lessee(s) within 10 business days from receipt. The lessor must also keep a record of the lessee(s) to whom this letter is sent, the date sent, and the applicable vehicle identification number (VIN). (For the purposes of this section, a lessor means a person or entity that in the last twelve months prior to the date of this notification has been the owner, as referenced on the vehicle's title, of any five or more leased vehicles. A leased vehicle is a vehicle leased to another person for a term of at least four months.)*

*A subsidiary of Fuji Heavy Industries Ltd.*