

CL 10522665-1439

JUL - 3 2013

MADISON, WISCONSIN
PHONE: [REDACTED] FAX: [REDACTED]

June 26, 2013

VIA REGULAR MAIL
AND
VIA CERTIFIED MAIL/
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Administrator
NHTSA
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
West Building
Washington, DC 20590

To Whom It May Concern:

I currently lease a 2012 Jeep Grand Cherokee Limited from Velcor Leasing Corporation, 2005 W. Beltline Hwy., Suite 200, Madison, WI 53713. The vehicle was delivered to my possession on 3/13/12. The sticker price for this vehicle was approximately \$44,000. The lease arrangement I have with Velcor is a lease-to-own arrangement, which means at any time I can pay the capitalized cost residual value and take title to the vehicle.

On Monday, 6/17/13, my son accompanied me to work and then drove my car to our home. On the way home, my son indicated that an acrid smell as well as a small amount of smoke began emanating from the Headliner in the vicinity of the control panel for the sunroof and other electrical functions.

Since the vehicle was quite close to my home at the time the above occurred, my son continued to my home, parked the Jeep in my driveway, and immediately turned off the ignition. After the ignition was turned off, within a short period of time, the intensity of the smoke increased, at which point the Fire Department was called. Before the Fire Department arrived, the roof of the vehicle burst into flames. Basically, the entire roof in the area of the front seats of the vehicle is now missing, as is the entire sunroof.

The vehicle had 10,722 miles at the time of the fire. A great deal of water was sprayed into the interior of the vehicle by the Fire Department which has compromised the interior of the vehicle. The sunroof glass also shattered, spraying glass throughout the interior of the vehicle.

NAM
7513
SMD

It is very surprising to me that even with the ignition turned off, the unexplained electrical problems intensified resulting in a dangerous fire. It is equally surprising why no fuses blew, thereby preventing a heat producing overload.

I have attached several photos that I took of my vehicle after the fire was extinguished which shows the extent of the damage. In my opinion, this electrical problem in an almost new vehicle is a very serious safety issue. Had my son not been kind enough to drive with me to work, I would have parked my Jeep in an underground parking ramp that is seldom monitored during the working hours of the day. Had the fire occurred while the vehicle was in the underground parking ramp, which is likely, the fire may have gone undetected until the gas tank of the vehicle exploded. The vehicle had a full tank of gas when this incident occurred.

Also, had my son not noted the smell and the small amount of smoke, he most likely would have parked the car in our garage which could have set my house on fire, doing not only property damage but possibly causing personal injury to my son who was home alone at the time of the fire.

Prior to the incident that occurred on 6/17/13, there had been no prior indications that anything was wrong with the vehicle. I had not noted any strange smell in the vehicle nor did I observe any smoke at any time prior to the incident described above. In fact, on the morning of 6/17/13, I drove my vehicle to work and did not note any problems. My son then drove my Jeep home, when the above problem was first noticed.

Additionally, I had not noticed any leakage in the vicinity of the sunroof, such as stains, water dripping into the vehicle, or any other indication of any sort or nature, that the sunroof was leaking.

When I ordered this vehicle, Velcor Leasing Corporation was provided the specifications I wanted for the vehicle as well as all of the amenities I selected and then Velcor Leasing Corp. ordered the vehicle from Chrysler Jeep. All amenities, including the sunroof installed in this vehicle, were installed by Chrysler Jeep.

My contact information is:

BUSINESS

[REDACTED]
Madison, WI

PHONE: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

HOME

[REDACTED]

Madison, WI [REDACTED]

HOME: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

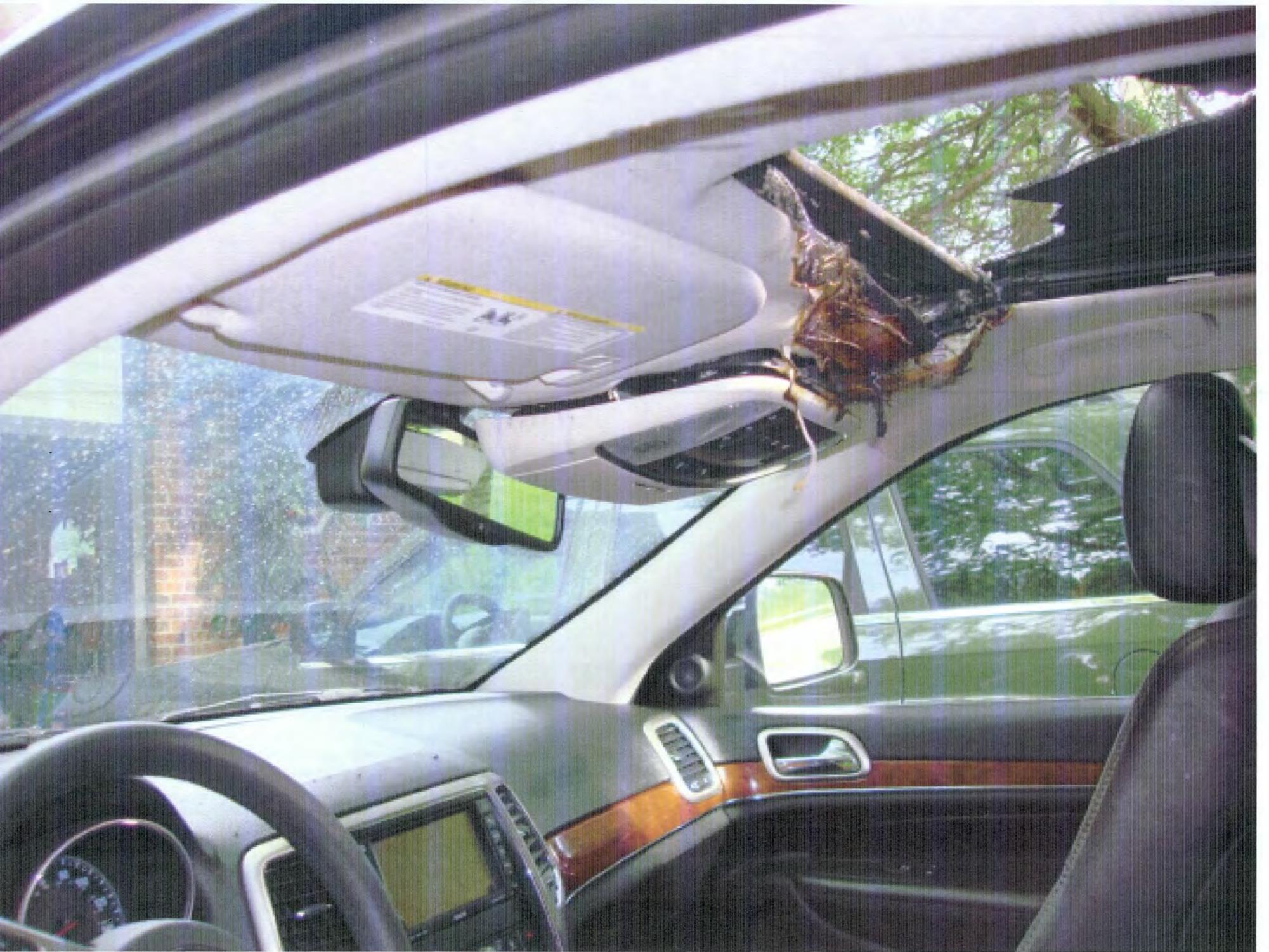
Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

DMD:tk

Enclosure

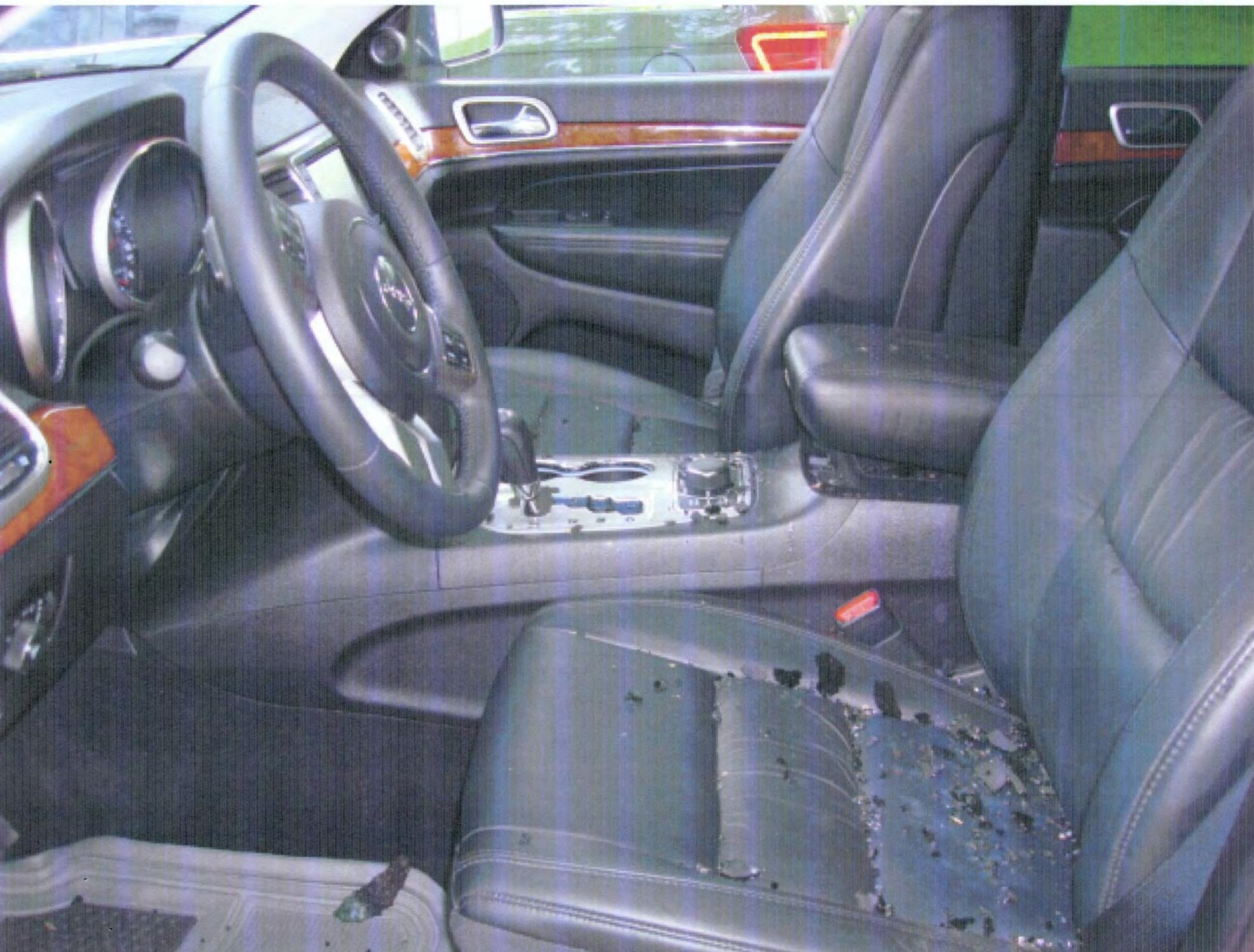
Cc: Chrysler Group LLC
Customer Center
P.O. Box 21-8004
Auburn Hills, MI 48321-8004
(Via Certified & Regular Mail)







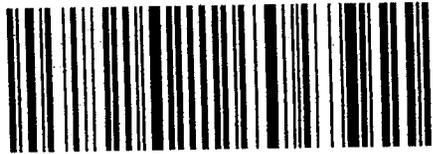






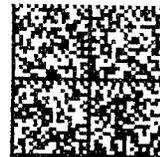


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MADISON,



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Administrator
NHTSA
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
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Washington, DC 20590

