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Attorneys for Debtors and Debtors in Possession

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----X

In re : Chapter 11 Case No.

MOTORS LIQUIDATION COMPANY, et al., : 09-50026 (REG)

f/k/a General Motors Corp., et al.

:

Debtors. : (Jointly Administered)

:

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NOTICE OF HEARING ON DEBTORS' OBJECTION TO PROOF OF CLAIM NO. 903 FILED BY SUSAN B. ANGELL AND PRUDENCE REID

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that upon the annexed Objection, dated January 29, 2010 of Motors Liquidation Company (f/k/a General Motors Corporation) and its affiliated debtors, as debtors in possession (collectively, the "Debtors"), to the allowance of Proof of Claim No. 903 filed by Susan B. Angell and Prudence Reid (the "Angell Putative Class Claim"), all as more fully set forth in the Objection, a hearing will be held before the Honorable Robert E. Gerber, United States Bankruptcy Judge, in Room 621 of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York, One Bowling Green, New York, New York 10004, on March 2, 2010 at 9:45 a.m. (Eastern Time), or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that any responses to the Objection must be in writing, shall conform to the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure and the Local Rules of the Bankruptcy Court, and shall be filed with the Bankruptcy Court (a) electronically in accordance with General Order M-242 (which can be found at www.nysb.uscourts.gov) by registered users of the Bankruptcy Court's filing system, and (b) by all other parties in interest, on a 3.5 inch disk, preferably in Portable Document Format (PDF), WordPerfect, or any other Windows-based word processing format (with a hard copy delivered directly to Chambers), in accordance with General Order M-182 (which can be found at www.nysb.uscourts.gov), and served in accordance with General Order M-242, and on (i) Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP, attorneys for the Debtors, 767 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10153 (Attn: Harvey R. Miller, Esq., Stephen Karotkin, Esq., and Joseph H. Smolinsky, Esq.); (ii) the Debtors, c/o Motors Liquidation Company, 500 Renaissance Center, Suite 1400, Detroit, Michigan 48243 (Attn: Ted Stenger); (iii) General Motors, LLC, 300 Renaissance Center, Detroit, Michigan 48265 (Attn: Lawrence S. Buonomo, Esq.); (iv) Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP, attorneys for the United States Department of the Treasury, One World Financial Center, New York, New York 10281 (Attn: John J. Rapisardi, Esq.); (v) the United States Department of the Treasury, 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Room 2312, Washington, DC 20220 (Attn: Joseph Samarias, Esq.); (vi) Vedder Price, P.C., attorneys for Export Development Canada, 1633 Broadway, 47th Floor, New York, New York 10019 (Attn: Michael J. Edelman, Esq. and Michael L. Schein, Esq.); (vii) Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP, attorneys for the statutory committee of unsecured creditors, 1177 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10036 (Attn: Thomas Moers Mayer, Esq., Amy Caton, Esq., Adam C. Rogoff, Esq., and Gregory G. Plotko, Esq.); (viii) the Office of the United States Trustee for the Southern District of New

York, 33 Whitehall Street, 21st Floor, New York, New York 10004 (Attn: Diana G. Adams,

Esq.); (ix) the U.S. Attorney's Office, S.D.N.Y., 86 Chambers Street, Third Floor, New York,

New York 10007 (Attn: David S. Jones, Esq. and Matthew L. Schwartz, Esq.); (x) all entities

that requested notice in these chapter 11 cases under Bankruptcy Rule 2002, and (xi) Susan B.

Angell and Prudence Reid, by and through their attorneys of record, Thomas P. Sobran, Esq., 7

Evergreen Lane, Hingham, Massachusetts 02043, so as to be received no later than **February 23**,

2010 at 4:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) (the "Response Deadline").

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if no response is timely filed and

served with respect to the Objection, the Debtors may, on or after the Response Deadline, submit

to the Bankruptcy Court an order substantially in the form of the proposed order annexed to the

Objection, which order may be entered with no further notice or opportunity to be heard offered

to any party.

Dated: New York, New York January 29, 2010

/s/ Joseph H. Smolinsky

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Attorneys for Debtors and Debtors in Possession

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

> DEBTORS' OBJECTION TO PROOF OF CLAIM NO. 903 FILED BY SUSAN B. ANGELL AND PRUDENCE REID

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TO THE HONORABLE ROBERT E. GERBER, UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE:

Motors Liquidation Company (f/k/a General Motors Corporation) ("**MLC**") and its affiliated debtors, as debtors in possession (collectively, the "**Debtors**") respectfully represent:

Relief Requested

- of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code"), Rule 3007(d) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules"), and this Court's Order Pursuant to Section 502(b)(9) of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rule 3003(c)(3) Establishing the Deadline for Filing Proofs of Claim (Including Claims Under Bankruptcy Code Section 503(b)(9)) and Procedures Relating Thereto and Approving the Form and Manner of Notice Thereof (the "Bar Date Order") [Docket No. 4079], establishing November 30, 2009 as the bar date (the "Bar Date"). Through this Objection, Debtors seek entry of an order disallowing and expunging Proof of Claim No. 903 (the "Angell Putative Class Claim") for \$615 million filed by Susan B. Angell and Prudence Reid (the "Angell Plaintiffs"), individually and on behalf of two-putative nationwide sub-classes. A copy of the Angell Putative Class Claim is annexed hereto as Exhibit "A."
- 2. Attached to the Angell Putative Class Claim was a purported class action complaint (the "Second Amended Complaint") which alleges causes of action for breach of contract; violations of Massachusetts General Law ("MGL") chapter 106, §2-314 regarding the alleged breach of implied warranty of merchantability; violations of MGL chapter 106; §2-313 regarding the alleged breach of express warranty, breach of express warranty to repair and/or

express service contract to repair; violations of MGL chapter 93A regarding unfair and deceptive trade practices; and unjust enrichment/restitution. These claims purportedly arise from the Debtors' marketing, maintenance, and sale of certain Saab vehicles (the "**Debtors' Products**"), which the Angell Plaintiffs allege had engines that were defective with respect to their design and workmanship, materials and manufacture, predisposing them to "oil sludge" deposits. The Angell Plaintiffs seek, through the Second Amended Complaint, inter alia, (1) to certify the putative sub-classes (Angell Putative Class Claim at 66), (2) monetary damages (id. at 66-67), (3) injunctive relief compelling the Debtors to inspect, replace, and clean various engine and vehicle parts (id.), (4) restitution for all engine repairs resulting from the allegedly defectively designed engines and allegedly incorrect engine oil recommendations (id. at 67), (5) restitution for all increased relevant past, present, and future maintenance costs (id.), (6) disgorgement of the Debtors' revenue from their alleged unlawful conduct, (7) establishment of a constructive trust "funded by the benefits conferred upon" the Debtors (id. at 67), (8) a permanent injunction enjoining the Debtors "from denying Angell's, Reid's and class members' class vehicle oil sludge damage claims for an eight year period commencing from the initial date of sale or lease regardless whether complete maintenance records are available." (Id. at 68.)

3. As discussed below, while federal courts (including courts in this district) have allowed the filing of class proofs of claims in some bankruptcy cases, whether to permit a class claim to proceed lies within the sound discretion of the court. In exercising their discretion, courts consider, among other things, whether (i) the claim satisfies the strict requirements of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure ("Rule 23"), and (ii) the benefits that generally support class certification in civil litigation are realizable in the bankruptcy case.

- 4. The Angell Putative Class Claim should be disallowed in its entirety because, *inter alia*, (i) the Angell Plaintiffs have failed to satisfy the basic procedural requirements of Bankruptcy Rules 9014 and 2019(a), (ii) the putative sub-classes do not satisfy Rule 23, and (iii) even if the putative sub-classes did satisfy Rule 23, the benefits that generally support class certification in civil litigation are not realizable in these chapter 11 cases. The Angell Putative Class Claim does not satisfy Rule 23 because of the numerous issues of fact that would predominate over any common questions and because the Angell Plaintiffs are neither typical of the putative sub-classes nor adequate class representatives. In addition, the need for injunctive relief has been mooted and would provide no deterrent effect, as the Debtors no longer operate a business and are liquidating. Further, the Angell Plaintiffs' request for a constructive trust is improper in the context of this bankruptcy proceeding, and their claims for breaches of express warranties are barred by the plain terms of the Purchase Agreement, as such liabilities are no longer the Debtors' obligations.
- 5. Despite notice by publication of the Bar Date to the putative class members encompassed by the Angell Putative Class Claim, other than the claims filed by the Angell Plaintiffs and by one other individual represented by putative class counsel for the Angell Plaintiffs,¹ there have been no claims filed in this Court seeking damages or requesting relief in connection with the alleged defect of Debtors' Products. Moreover, because the Debtors have

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¹ In addition to the Angell Putative Class Claim, the Angell Plaintiffs each filed individual claims apparently based upon the same allegations as the Angell Putative Class Claim. *See* Proofs of Claim Nos. 18916 & 18918, annexed hereto as **Exhibits "B"** and "**C**," respectively. Further, Mr. Sobran, the same attorney who filed the Angell Putative Class Claim on behalf of the Angell Plaintiffs, also filed a separate claim on behalf of third individual, Jo Ann Adams. *See* Proof of Claim No. 18917, annexed hereto as **Exhibit "D"** (the "**Adams Claim**"). However, included in the documents in support of the Adams Claim is a contingency fee arrangement between Ms. Adams and Mr. Sobran, which was signed in connection with the putative class action alleged in the Second Amended Complaint. *See* Adams Claim at 3 ("In the event there is no certification of the Saab proposed class action entitled *Angell*, *et al v. Saab Automobile AB*, *et al* . . ., Attorney may withdraw from representation of Client.").

provided such notice, it would be unfair and unnecessary to burden the Debtors' estates with the additional cost and associated delay of providing these potential claimants with a second opportunity to assert claims as class claimants. Allowing the Angell Putative Class Claim to proceed could drain the estates' limited resources if additional notice is required to be given by the Debtors to the putative class members. But even worse, the confirmation of the Debtors' cases and the distribution of the Debtors' assets could be delayed while the Angell Putative Class Claim is litigated and liquidated. Such litigation and resultant delay would further deplete the pool of assets available for distribution to the Debtors' creditors. As a result, the Court should (i) disallow the Angell Putative Class Claim in its entirety, or (ii) in the alternative, not allow the Angell Putative Class Claim to proceed as a class claim.

Jurisdiction

6. This Court has jurisdiction to consider this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334. This is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b).

Relevant Facts to Angell Putative Class Claim

- 7. On September 16, 2009, this Court entered the Bar Date Order which, among other things, established November 30, 2009 as the Bar Date and set forth specific procedures for filing proofs of claims. The Bar Date Order requires, among other things, that a proof of claim must "set forth with specificity" the legal and factual basis for the alleged claim and include supporting documentation or an explanation as to why such documentation is not available. (Bar Date Order at 2.)
- 8. On July 28, 2009, the Angell Plaintiffs filed the Angell Putative Class Claim. The Angell Putative Class Claim was not certified before June 1, 2009 (the

"Commencement Date")², when each of the Debtors commenced a case under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code in the Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York (the "Bankruptcy Court"), and the Angell Plaintiffs have not sought class certification from this Court. The Angell Putative Class Claim attaches a Second Amended Complaint, originally filed in the United States District Court of the District of Massachusetts, Civil Action No. 1 08-CV-11201-DPW, which sets forth various causes of action related to breach of contract, breach of express and implied warranty, unfair and deceptive trade practices, and unjust enrichment/restitution (*see* Angell Putative Class Claim at 45-65), on behalf of two putative nationwide sub-classes. The first putative sub-class includes:

All owners, former owners, lessees and former lessees of class vehicles whether individuals or business entities sustaining monetary loss incurred from repairing and/or replacing the class engine and components affected by oil sludge.

(*Id.* at 10-11 ¶ 41.) The second putative sub-class includes:

All owners, former owners, lessees and former lessees of class vehicles whether individuals or business entities sustaining monetary loss incurred by diminution of class vehicle resale value, increased vehicle operating costs caused by the use of more expensive engine oil and more frequent oil changes than initially recommended in their respective class vehicle owner's manual (including but not limited to maintenance stated in Saab's "special policy") and decreased engine performance resulting from engine oil sludge.

(*Id.*) Collectively, these two putative sub-classes are referred to herein as the "**Putative** Classes."

9. The Angell Plaintiffs' claims purportedly arise from the Debtors' marketing, maintenance, and sale of Debtors' Products, which the Angell Plaintiffs allege had

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² Capitalized terms used but not defined in this section shall have the definitions ascribed to them below.

engines that were defective with respect to their design and workmanship, materials and manufacture, predisposing them to "oil sludge" deposits, which deposits "accelera[te] engine wear" and purportedly cause engines to fail "after accumulating only one quarter to one-half of their reasonably anticipated useful lifetime mileage." (*See id.* at 2-4 ¶ 7, 15-17.) Moreover, the Angell Plaintiffs allege that the Debtors wrote and distributed owner's manuals that prescribed the incorrect maintenance program in regard to the type of oil that should be used and the frequency of oil changes for the Debtors' Products and that this incorrect maintenance program prescribed in the owner's manuals caused the "oil sludge" deposits. (*See*, *e.g.*, *id.* at 4 ¶ 13-14.) The Angell Plaintiffs further lodge a myriad of allegations regarding the Debtors' attempts to fraudulently conceal the defects in their products and the errors in the owner's manuals and other notices to consumers "in order to sell class vehicles to uninformed consumers" and to "protect . . . corporate profits from loss of sales from adverse publicity and warranty repairs." (*Id.* at 17, 31, 34, 36 ¶ 92-94, 116, 129, 138.)

10. The Second Amended Complaint seeks, *inter alia*, (1) to certify the putative nationwide classes (*id.* at 66), (2) monetary damages (*id.* at 66-67), (3) injunctive relief compelling the Debtors to inspect, replace, and clean various engine and vehicle parts (*id.*), (4) restitution for all engine repairs resulting from the allegedly defectively designed engines and allegedly incorrect engine oil recommendations (*id.* at 67), (5) restitution for all increased relevant past, present, and future maintenance costs (*id.*), (6) disgorgement of the Debtors' revenue from their alleged unlawful conduct, (7) establishment of a constructive trust "funded by the benefits conferred upon" the Debtors (*id.* at 67), (8) a permanent injunction enjoining the Debtors "from denying Angell's, Reid's and class members' class vehicle oil sludge damage

claims for an eight year period commencing from the initial date of sale or lease regardless whether complete maintenance records are available." (*Id.* at 68.)

The Relief Requested Should Be Approved by the Court

I. Application of Bankruptcy Rule 7023 to a Class Proof of Claim Is Discretionary and Should Be Denied in This Case

Bankruptcy Code. *See In re Bally Total Fitness of Greater N.Y., Inc.*, 402 B.R. 616, 619 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y.), *aff'd*, 411 B.R. 142 (S.D.N.Y. 2009); *In re Sacred Heart Hosp.*, 177 B.R. 16, 22 (Bankr. E.D. Pa. 1995) (noting that the class action device may be utilized in appropriate contexts, but should be used sparingly). Application of Bankruptcy Rule 7023 to class proofs of claim³ lies within the *sound discretion* of the court.⁴ In determining whether to exercise discretion and permit a class proof of claim, courts primarily look at (i) whether the class

³ Part VII of the Bankruptcy Rules, which includes Bankruptcy Rule 7023, only applies to adversary proceedings. *See* Fed. R. Bankr. P. 7001. Bankruptcy Rule 9014, however, adopts certain of the rules from Part VII for application in contested matters. Bankruptcy Rule 7023 is not among them. *See* Fed. R. Bankr. P. 9014. Thus, plaintiffs seeking the application of Bankruptcy Rule 7023 (and by implication, Rule 23) to a class proof of claim are required to *move* under Bankruptcy Rule 9014 for a court to apply the rules in Part VII. Fed. R. Bankr. P. 9014; *accord In re Woodward & Lothrop Holdings, Inc.*, 205 B.R. 365, 369 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1997) (stating that "[f] or a Class Claim to proceed . . . the bankruptcy court must direct Rule 23 to apply"). *See, e.g., Reid v. White Motor Corp.*, 886 F.2d 1462, 1470 (6th Cir. 1989), *cert. denied*, 494 U.S. 1080 (1990); *In re Charter Co.*, 876 F.2d 866, 876 (11th Cir. 1989), *cert. dismissed*, 496 U.S. 944 (1990) (holding that proof of claim filed on behalf of class of claimants is valid, but that "does not mean that the appellants may proceed, without more, to represent a class in their bankruptcy action. Under the bankruptcy posture of this case, Bankruptcy Rule 7023 and class action procedures are applied at the discretion of the bankruptcy judge.").

⁴ See, e.g., In re Bally Total Fitness, 402 B.R. at 620 ("[C]ourts may exercise their discretion to extend Rule 23 to allow the filing of a class proof of claim."); In re Thomson McKinnon Sec. Inc., 133 B.R. 39, 40 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1991) (Bankruptcy Rule 7023 and Rule 23 "give the court substantial discretion to consider the benefits and costs of class litigation") (citing In re Am. Reserve Corp., 840 F.2d 487, 488 (7th Cir. 1988)), aff'd, 141 B.R. 31 (S.D.N.Y. 1992); accord In re United Cos. Fin. Corp., 277 B.R. 596, 601 (Bankr. D. Del. 2002) ("Whether to certify a class claim is within the discretion of the bankruptcy court."); In re Kaiser Group Int'l, Inc., 278 B.R. 58, 62 (Bankr. D. Del. 2002) (same); Reid, 886 F.2d at 1469-70 (stating that "Rule 9014 authorizes bankruptcy judges, within their discretion, to invoke Rule 7023, and thereby Fed. R. Civ. P. 23, the class action rule, to 'any stage' in contested matters, including, class proofs of claim."); In re Charter Co., 876 F.2d at 876 ("[u]nder the bankruptcy posture of this case Bankruptcy Rule 7023 and class action procedures are applied at the discretion of the bankruptcy judge.").

claimant moved to extend the application of Rule 23 to its proof of claim; (ii) whether the benefits derived from the use of the class claim device are consistent with the goals of bankruptcy; and (iii) whether the claims which the proponent seeks to certify fulfill the requirements of Rule 23. *See In re Bally Total Fitness*, 402 B.R. at 620; *In re Woodward*, 205 B.R. at 369; *see also In re Ephedra Prods. Liab. Litig.*, 329 B.R. 1, 5 (S.D.N.Y. 2005) ("In exercising that discretion, the bankruptcy court first decides under Rule 9014 whether or not to apply Rule 23, Fed. R. Civ. P., to a "contested matter," *i.e.*, the purported class claim; if and only if the court decides to apply Rule 23, does it then determine whether the requirements of Rule 23 are satisfied.").

- 12. When evaluating these requirements, courts have considered a variety of factors, including, *inter alia*:
 - whether claimants are in "compliance with the Bankruptcy procedures regulating the filing of class proofs of claim in a bankruptcy case," see, e.g., In re Thomson, 133 B.R. at 41 (disallowing class proof of claim where named plaintiff failed to file a Rule 9014 motion requesting that Rule 7023 apply);
 - whether the debtor intends to liquidate, see In re Thomson, 133 B.R. at 41 (noting that the context of a liquidating chapter 11 plan supports rejection of class proofs of claim);
 - whether or not a purported class was previously certified, see, e.g., In re Bally Total Fitness, 402 B.R. at 620 (refusing to allow class proof of claim where class was not certified pre-petition); In re Sacred Heart Hosp., 177 B.R. at 23 (classes certified pre-petition are "best candidates" for a class proof of claim);
 - whether the class claim device will result in "increased efficiency, compensation to injured parties, and deterrence of future wrongdoing by the debtor," see In re Woodward, 205 B.R. at 376 (emphasis added and internal citations omitted); accord In re Thomson, 133 B.R. at 40 ("Manifestly, the bankruptcy court's control of the debtor's affairs might make class certification unnecessary.");

- whether the entertainment of class claims would subject the administration of the bankruptcy case to undue delay, see, e.g., In re Ephedra Prods. Liab. Litig., 329 B.R. at 5 ("[A] court sitting in bankruptcy may decline to apply Rule 23 if doing so would . . . 'gum up the works' of distributing the estate."); and
- whether or not adequate notice of the bar date was afforded to potential class members, see In re Jamesway Corp., No. 95 B 44821 (JLG), 1997 WL 327105, at *10 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. June 11, 1997) (refusing to certify class where adequate notice of bar date was afforded to potential class members, and thus to certify class would be "unwarranted, unfair, and possibly violate the due process rights of other creditors") (internal quotations omitted).

"If application of Bankruptcy Rule 7023 is rejected by the bankruptcy court in an exercise of discretion . . . the result will be that class claims will be denied and expunged." *In re Thomson*, 133 B.R. at 40-41. As set forth below, the Court should exercise its discretion to reject the application of Bankruptcy Rule 7023 and to disallow the Angell Putative Class Claim.

A. The Angell Plaintiffs Failed to Comply with Bankruptcy Rules 9014 and 2019

13. A plaintiff who seeks to bring a class proof of claim must comply with the applicable procedural requirements. *See, e.g., In re Am. Reserve Corp.*, 840 F.2d at 494 (noting the applicability of Bankruptcy Rule 9014 and its procedural requirements); *see In re Ephedra Prods. Liab. Litig.*, 329 B.R. at 6-7 (same). These procedural requirements are not complicated. Because a claim "cannot be allowed as a class claim until the bankruptcy court directs that Rule 23 apply," the putative class representative must file a motion with the bankruptcy court requesting the application of Rule 23. *In re Woodward*, 205 B.R. at 368, 370. ("Rule 23 does not say who must make a timely motion, but the duty ordinarily falls on the proponent of the class action."). In addition, a purported agent or class representative is required to file a verified statement of multiple creditor representation pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 2019. *See* Fed. R. Bankr. P. 2019.

- 14. The requirement that a class claimant timely move under Bankruptcy Rule 9014 to incorporate Rule 23 is intended to protect a debtors' estate from undue delay of the debtors' plan process. See In re Thomson McKinnon Sec., Inc., 150 B.R. 98, 101 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1992). In *In re Woodward*, another case in which there was no pre-bankruptcy class certification, the court stated that the class claim should be disallowed if the putative class representative did not expeditiously move in the bankruptcy case for certification of its class claim, as a lengthy certification battle could delay the administration and distribution of the bankruptcy estate. See In re Woodward, 205 B.R. at 370; see also In re Ephedra Prods. Liab. Litig., 329 B.R. at 5 (disallowing class products liability claim because "it is simply too late in the administration of this Chapter 11 case to ask the Court to apply Rule 23 to class proofs of claim."). As of the date hereof, more than seven months after the Commencement Date and two months after the Bar Date, the Angell Plaintiffs have not sought permission of the Court to file a class proof of claim, or moved for certification of the class. As a result, if allowed to proceed, the Angell Putative Class Claim would unduly delay the administration of the Debtors' estates and their ability to consummate a plan of liquidation ("Plan"), because the adjudication of the claim and its attendant class-certification issues could take months. Accordingly, this Court should enforce these procedural requirements and disallow the Angell Putative Class Claim. See, e.g., In re Woodward, 205 B.R. at 369-71; In re Thomson, 150 B.R. at 100-01; In re Thomson, 133 B.R. at 41; In re Zenith Labs., Inc., 104 B.R. 659, 664 (D.N.J. 1989); In re Ephedra Prods. Liab. Litig., 329 B.R. at 6-7.
- 15. Further, Bankruptcy Rule 2019(a) requires purported agents representing more than one creditor to file a verified statement setting forth the basis of that representative's

right to act for the represented creditors. Among other things, the required verified statement must list the name and address of the creditors, the nature and amount of the creditors' claims, the agent's specific authority empowering him to act on behalf of the creditors, and the relevant facts and circumstances surrounding the employment of the agent. *See In re Elec. Theatre Rests. Corp.*, 57 B.R. 147 (Bankr. N.D. Ohio 1986).

- 16. Bankruptcy Rule 2019 "is a comprehensive regulation of representation in chapter 11 reorganization cases." Fed R. Bankr. P. 2019 (Advisory Committee Note).

 Accordingly, non-compliance with the rule constitutes grounds for not recognizing a class proof of claim. *See Reid*, 886 F.2d at 1471 ("Failure to comply with Rule 2019 is cause for denial of the proof of claim."); *In re Baldwin-United Corp.*, 52 B.R. 146, 148 (Bankr. S.D. Ohio 1985) (ruling that claimants' failure to comply with Rule 2019(a) barred their ability to file class proof of claim); *In re GAC Corp.*, 681 F.2d 1295, 1299 (11th Cir. 1982) (affirming disallowance of class proof of claim filed on behalf of debtor's debenture holders where, among other things, proposed class representative failed to comply with predecessor of Rule 2019).
- 17. Further, neither the Angell Plaintiffs nor their counsel can qualify as an authorized agent pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 3001(b). Assuming *arguendo*, however, that the Angell Plaintiffs or their counsel could be considered an authorized agent, both have failed to file a verified statement to comply with the requirements of Bankruptcy Rule 2019(a). Accordingly, the Court should not exercise discretion to apply Bankruptcy Rule 7023 to the Angell Putative Class Claim.

B. Allowing the Angell Claim to Proceed as a Class Action Will Not Be Effective or Efficient

- 18. For a class action to proceed, "the benefits that generally support class certification in civil litigation must be realizable in the bankruptcy case." *In re Woodward*, 205 B.R. at 369 (citing *In re Mortgage & Realty Trust*, 125 B.R. 575, 580 (Bankr. C.D. Cal. 1991)). In this case, neither the purported class nor the Court would benefit from recognizing a class proof of claim and allowing a class action to proceed.
- 19. The Angell Putative Class Claim does not provide for the most effective or efficient means of determining the rights of the members of the Putative Classes. First, a class proof of claim is not appropriate if individual issues of fact would predominate over any questions common to the members of the purported class. For that reason, the court in *In re Woodward*, in considering putative class claims for false advertising and misrepresentation, found that a class action is "generally not appropriate to resolve claims based upon common law fraud." *In re Woodward*, 205 B.R. at 371.
- 20. Second, in general, the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rules can provide the same benefits and serve the same purposes as class action procedures in normal civil litigation. *See id.* at 376 ("a bankruptcy proceeding offers the same procedural advantages as the class action because it concentrates all the disputes in one forum"); *3 Newburg on Class Actions*, Ch. 20 (Class Actions Under the Bankruptcy Laws) § 20.01 at 581 (commenting that "bankruptcy proceedings are already capable of handling group claims, which operate essentially as statutory class actions."); *see also In re Standard Metals Corp.*, 817 F.2d 625, 632 (10th Cir. 1987)), *reh'g granted*, 839 F.3d 1383 (10th Cir. 1987), *cert. dismissed*, 488 U.S. 881 (1988). Although members of the Putative Classes can no longer file their claims because the Bar Date

has passed, they had ample notice of the Bar Date and opportunity to take advantage of these bankruptcy procedures.

21. Third, the bankruptcy claims process is, in some respects, *superior* to class action procedures. As the court observed in *In re Woodward*:

[W]hile the class action ordinarily provides compensation that cannot otherwise be achieved by aggregating small claims, the bankruptcy creditor can, with a minimum of effort, file a proof of claim and participate in distributions. In addition, there may be little economic justification to object to a modest claim, even where grounds exist. Hence, a creditor holding such a claim may not have to do anything more to prove his case or vindicate his rights.

205 B.R. at 376 (citations omitted). Here, notwithstanding the chance to do so, none of the members of the Putative Classes, save for the named plaintiffs (and one individual represented by the same counsel as the named plaintiffs), filed a claim against the Debtors.

22. The fact that the Plan that is to be filed by the Debtors is a chapter 11 plan of liquidation lends further support for denying allowance of a class proof of claim in these cases. *See In re Thomson*, 133 B.R. at 41. "The costs and delay associated with class actions are not compatible with liquidation cases where the need for expeditious administration of assets is paramount so that all creditors, including those not within the class, may receive a distribution as soon as possible." *Id.* "Creditors who are not involved in class litigation should not have to wait for the payment of their distributive liquidated share while the class action grinds on." *Id.* To have \$615 million of the Debtors' estates be set aside, without knowing the identity or merit of the claims held by the members of the Putative Classes, would result in extreme prejudice to the Debtors' estate and would be unfair to other creditors. All the Debtors' creditors should not be

forced to wait for payment of their distribution while the Angell Putative Class Claim is litigated and the estates' remaining assets are depleted.

23. The facts of the instant case are similar to the facts of *In re Woodward*, where the court exercised its discretion to deny the class claim, finding that "the class claim will not deter an insolvent, non-operating debtor's management or shareholders, or induce them to police future conduct [where] . . . the debtor has . . . a liquidating plan that wipes out equity. The managers have moved on to other jobs – the debtor has closed its doors – and the prosecution of the class action will [] not affect how they act in the future." 205 B.R. at 376. Here, the Debtors have discontinued the sale of the Debtors' Products and have subsequently sold substantially all their assets. The Debtors are no longer operating a business.

C. The Angell Claim Was Not Certified Prior to the Commencement Date

24. A number of courts have held that class proofs of claim may be inappropriate where a class representative was not certified prepetition in a non-bankruptcy forum. See, e.g., In re Trebol Motors Distrib. Corp., 220 B.R. 500, 502 (1st Cir. BAP 1998); In re Sacred Heart Hosp., 177 B.R. at 23; In re Ret. Builders, Inc., 96 B.R. 390, 391 (Bankr. S.D. Fla. 1988); In re Ephedra Prods. Liab. Litig., 329 B.R. at 5. The court in Sacred Heart Hospital held that use of the class proof of claim device in bankruptcy cases may be appropriate in certain contexts, but "such contexts should be chosen most sparingly." In re Sacred Heart Hosp., 177 B.R. at 22. Specifically, the Sacred Heart Hospital court noted that cases where (i) a class has been certified prepetition by a nonbankruptcy court, or (ii) a class action has been filed and allowed to proceed as a class action in a nonbankruptcy forum for a considerable time prepetition, may present appropriate contexts for recognizing a class proof of claim. See id.

25. The purported class in the Angell Action was not certified at the time of the Debtors' chapter 11 filing, and it remains uncertified today. *The Debtors have been unable to find a single bankruptcy case within the Second Circuit in which a pre-certification class claim was allowed.*

D. Adequate Notice of the Bankruptcy Case and the Bar Date Was Provided to the Putative Angell Class

- 26. One of the principal goals of the Bankruptcy Code is to ensure that creditors of equal rank receive equal treatment in the distribution of a debtor's assets. The Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rules, therefore, require creditors to file proofs of claim before a bar date. *See* 11 U.S.C. § 502(b)(9); Fed. R. Bankr. P. 3003(c)(3). Regardless of how worthy their claims may be, claimants who fail to file before an applicable bar date "shall not be treated as a creditor with respect to such claim for the purposes of voting and distribution." Fed. R. Bankr. P. 3003(c)(2). These same procedural hurdles must be met by all creditors.
- 27. In determining whether a class proof of claim should be allowed, courts consider whether adequate notice of the bar date was afforded to potential class members. *See In re Jamesway Corp.*, 1997 WL 327105, at *8. As that court stated:

The proper inquiry is whether [the debtor] acted reasonably in selecting means likely to inform persons affected by the Bar Date and these chapter 11 proceedings, not whether each claimant actually received notice . . . [a]s to those plaintiffs who might not have received actual notice of the Bar Date, we find that by complying with the terms of the Bar Date Order, mailing a Claim Package to every known creditor and publishing notice of the Bar Date, [the Debtor's] actions satisfy due process."

Id. (internal citations omitted).

- 28. In this case, the putative members in the Angell Plaintiffs' proposed class received proper notice of the Debtors' chapter 11 cases and the Bar Date in accordance with the provisions of the Bar Date Order. At great expense to their estates, the Debtors published notice of the Bar Date nationwide in *The Wall Street Journal* (Global Edition – North America, Europe, and Asia), *The New York Times* (National), *USA Today* (Monday through Thursday, National), Detroit Free Press, Detroit News, LeJournal de Montreal (French), Montreal Gazette (English), The Globe and Mail, (National), and The National Post. (See Bar Date Order at 7.) Providing individual notice to all owners of the Debtors' Products would be impossible or, at minimum, prohibitively expensive, as persons resell their vehicles and Debtors would have no way to know the identities of the current owners of their products. Providing notice of the Debtors' bankruptcy cases and the Bar Date by publication, however, constituted a viable alternative to the impracticability, or perhaps even impossibility, of tracking down and providing individual notice to each of the consumer purchasers of the Debtors' Products. Additionally, in this case, in particular, the Debtors would be hard-pressed to find a handful of Americans who were not aware of the chapter 11 filing of General Motors Corporation.
- 29. No member of the Putative Classes (save for the Angell Plaintiffs and one individual represented by the same counsel as the Angell Plaintiffs) has filed a claim, and members of the Putative Classes who failed to file proofs of claim could not be said to have relied on the filing of the Angell Putative Class Claim because the Putative Classes were not certified as of the Commencement Date. *See In re Jamesway Corp.*, 1997 WL 327105, at *10 (denying motion for class certification of class claim where "[n]o class was pre-certified such that purported class members who did not chose to file a proof of claim should or could have had

any reasonable expectation that they need not comply with the Bar Date Order"). Because the Debtors have provided notice by publication to the members of the Putative Classes encompassed by the Angell Putative Class Claim, it would be unfair and unnecessary to burden the Debtors' estates with the additional cost and associated delay of providing these potential claimants with a second notice. Further, the only type of notice the Debtors could reasonably provide these persons today would be another publication notice, effectively duplicating the notice they have already been provided and extending the Bar Date for a particular sub-group of general unsecured creditors who are not entitled to special treatment under the Bankruptcy Code. Since not a single such member of the Putative Classes filed an individual claim prior to the Bar Date (save for the named Angell Plaintiffs), it is highly unlikely that many, if any at all, would file claims if given a second opportunity, but the estate would suffer the unnecessary costs of notice.

II. The Angell Putative Class Claim <u>Cannot Satisfy the Requirements of Rule 23</u>

- 30. Even if this Court were to permit the Angell Plaintiffs to file a class claim, the Angell Putative Class Claim would not satisfy Rule 23. To proceed as a class claim, the Angell Putative Class Claim must meet all four requirements of subsection (a) of Rule 23, as made applicable to bankruptcy cases by Bankruptcy Rule 7023. *See Moore v. PaineWebber, Inc.*, 306 F.3d 1247, 1252 (2d Cir. 2002). *See also In re Woodward*, 205 B.R. at 371. Rule 23(a) provides:
 - (a) Prerequisites to Class Action. One or more members of a class may sue or be sued as representative parties on behalf of all only if:
 - (1) the class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable;

- (2) there are questions of law or fact common to the class;
- (3) the claims or defenses of the representative parties are typical of the claims or defenses of the class; and
- (4) the representative parties will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class.

Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a).

- 31. In addition, to proceed as a class claim, the Angell Putative Class Claim must satisfy subsections (b)(2) and (b)(3) of Rule 23, as the Angell Putative Class Claim seeks injunctive relief and monetary damages.⁵ *See In re Drexel Burnham Lambert Group, Inc.*, 960 F.2d 285, 290 (2d Cir. 1992), *cert. dismissed*, 506 U.S. 1088 (1993). (*See* Angell Putative Class Claim at 10, ¶ 41.) For purposes of this objection, Rule 23(b)(2) provides in relevant part:
 - (2) the party opposing the class has acted or refused to act on grounds that apply generally to the class, so that final injunctive relief or corresponding declaratory relief is appropriate respecting the class as a whole.

Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(2). In addition, Rule 23(b)(3) provides in relevant part:

(3) the court finds that the questions of law or fact common to the members of the class predominate over any questions affecting only individual members, and that a class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy.

Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3).

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⁵ In addition, the Angell Plaintiffs' request for a constructive trust does not relieve them from satisfying Rule 23(b)(3)'s predominance requirement, as it is merely a sham request for injunctive relief that the Second Circuit has stated cannot support Rule 23(b)(2) certification. *See Presbyterian Church of Sudan v. Talisman Energy, Inc.*, 226 F.R.D. 456, 468 (S.D.N.Y. 2005) ("The plaintiffs' request for a constructive trust is an ill-disguised claim for damages... and cannot support Rule 23(b)(2) certification."). Moreover, the Angell Plaintiffs' request for a constructive trust fails because a constructive trust "is fundamentally at odds with the general goals of the Bankruptcy Code," as it "clearly thwarts the policy of ratable distribution" by seeking to elevate certain claims above others. *See In re Omegas Group, Inc.*, 16 F.3d 1443, 1451 (6th Cir. 1994) (internal citations and quotations omitted) ("Constructive trusts are anathema to the equities of bankruptcy since they take from the estate, and thus directly from competing creditors, not from the offending debtor."). The judicial creation of a "res" from the Debtors' estate would be antithetical to the goals of the Bankruptcy Code. *Id.*

32. As set forth below, numerous individual issues of fact would predominate over any common questions in the Angell Putative Class Claim because the Angell Plaintiffs are neither typical of the members of the Putative Classes nor adequate class representatives.

Moreover, class treatment is simply not efficient or superior in these circumstances. As discussed below, the Angell Plaintiffs' claim raises a host of individual issues of fact regarding each putative class member's right to recovery. These individual issues would require mini trials as to each class member's right to relief, a result that courts have repeatedly found requires denial of class certification.

A. The Injunctive Relief Sought by the Angell Putative Class Claim Under Rule 23(b)(2) Is Mooted by the Debtors' Liquidation

33. First, the Angell Putative Class Claim cannot meet the requirements of Rule 23(b)(2), as any claim for injunctive relief is mooted because the Debtors do not presently operate a business and are liquidating. *See In re Ephedra Prods. Liab. Litig.*, 329 B.R. at 9 n.5 ("Insofar as the class claims seek injunctive relief against Twinlabs under Rule 23(b)(2), they are moot now that Twinlabs has gone out of business and existence"). As a result, the Debtors cannot be compelled to, *inter alia*, inspect, replace, and/or clean the allegedly defective engines or engine parts, or permanently enjoined from denying oil sludge damage claims of the members of the Putative Classes for an eight-year period commending from the initial date of sale or lease, as sought by the Angell Plaintiffs. (*See* Angell Putative Class Claim at 66-68.)

B. Numerous Individual Issues Predominate Over Any Common Questions

34. The Angell Plaintiffs also fail to satisfy Rule 23(b)(2) because individual issues predominate over common questions and a class action is not a superior method of adjudicating the Angell Putative Class Claims.

1. Variations in the Law of 51 Jurisdictions Defeat Predominance

- analyze whether the factors under Federal Rule 23 are satisfied, the court must determine which state's or states' substantive law governs the underlying claims. *See*, *e.g.*, *In re Prempro Prods*. *Liab. Litig.*, 230 F.R.D. 555, 561 (E.D. Ark. 2005) ("Not only must the choice-of-law issue be addressed at the class certification stage it must be tackled at the front end since it pervades every element of [Federal Rule] 23."); *Chin v. Chrysler Corp.* 182 F.R.D. 448, 457 (D.N.J. 1998). This is logical because it would be impossible to determine whether there are questions of law common to the class, for example, without first determining what the substance of the applicable laws is. Both federal case law and the Constitution mandate that this Court perform a choice of law analysis before determining whether this case is properly certified as a class action. *See Phillips Petroleum Co. v. Shutts*, 472 U.S. 797, 821 (1985).
- 36. This requirement begets the question of which state's or states' law should apply to the class claims when a class is comprised of individuals living, and allegedly injured by the defendant's conduct, in every state in the nation. Federal courts in this jurisdiction and across the country have uniformly answered this question by holding that where a purported class action would involve class members from more than one state "the court will apply the law of each of the states from which plaintiffs hail." *In re Ford Motor Co. Ignition Switch Prods.*Liab. Litig., 174 F.R.D. 332, 348 (D.N.J. 1997); *In re Rezulin Prods. Liab. Litig.*, 210 F.R.D. 61, 70-71 (S.D.N.Y. 2002), reconsideration denied, 224 F.R.D. 346 (S.D.N.Y. 2004); *Kaczmarek v. Int'l Bus. Mach.*, 186 F.R.D. 307, 312-13 (S.D.N.Y. 1999); *Feinstein v. Firestone Tire & Rubber Co.*, 535 F. Supp. 595, 605 (S.D.N.Y. 1982). To hold otherwise and apply only the forum state's

substantive law to the class certification analysis would violate Constitutional principles of due process and federalism. *See Allstate Ins. Co. v. Hague*, 449 U.S. 302, 312-13, 335-36 (1981), *reh'g denied*, 450 U.S. 971 (1981).⁶

law to the claims in a nationwide class action is fatal to class certification when the applicable laws differ from state to state. This Court and countless others have repeatedly held that "the need of a court to apply diverse laws and varied burdens of proof to the individual class members' claims defeats the predominance requirement of Federal Rule 23(b)(3)." *In re Worldcom, Inc.*, 343 B.R. 412, 427 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2006); *In re Laser Arms Corp. Sec. Litig.*, 794 F. Supp. 475, 495 (S.D.N.Y. 1989) *aff'd*, 969 F.2d 15 (2d Cir. 1992) ("In the absence of a single state law governing each entire common law claim, common questions of law would not predominate over individual questions."); *In re Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc.*, 288 F.3d 1012, 1015 (7th Cir. 2002) , *cert. denied*, 537 U.S. 1105 (2003) ("No class action is proper unless all litigants are governed by the same legal rules."); *Henry Schein, Inc. v. Stromboe*, 102 S.W.3d 675, 698-99 (Tex. 2002), *reh'g denied*, 102 S.W.3d 675 (Tex. 2002) (citing dozens of federal and state cases that have "rejected class certification when multiple states' laws must be applied.").

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⁶ The Supreme Court expressly admonished a state court for applying its state's substantive law to a nationwide class action filed within its borders, noting that the state "may not take a transaction with little or no relationship to the forum and apply the law of the forum in order to satisfy the procedural requirement that there be a 'common question of law.'" *Phillips Petroleum Co.*, 472 U.S. at 821. The *Phillips Petroleum* Court concluded that the forum state's "lack of 'interest' in claims unrelated to that State and the substantive conflict with" other jurisdictions rendered the application of the forum state's law to every claim in the nationwide class action "sufficiently arbitrary and unfair as to exceed constitutional limits." *Id.* at 822.

- 38. The Angell Plaintiffs have the burden of establishing that variations in the laws of the jurisdictions do not "swamp any common issues and defeat predominance." *Castano v. Am. Tobacco Co.*, 84 F.3d 734, 741 (5th Cir. 1996). Here, the Angell Plaintiffs cannot meet this burden as courts have repeatedly determined that variations in the causes of action at issue in this case *inter alia*, fraudulent misrepresentation/concealment and breach of express and implied warranty have made certification of nationwide class actions impermissible.
- certification of a nationwide class based on fraud because the necessity to apply the laws of many states defeats the predominance requirement. *See, e.g., In re Worldcom, Inc.*, 343 B.R. at 427; *In re Laser Arms Corp. Sec. Litig.*, 794 F. Supp. at 495; *In re Woodward*, 205 B.R. at 371 (finding that a class action is "generally not appropriate to resolve claims based upon common law fraud"); *Kirkpatrick v. J.C. Bradford & Co.*, 827 F.2d 718, 725 (11th Cir. 1987), *reh'g denied*, 832 F.2d 1267 (11th Cir. 1987), *cert. denied*, 485 U.S. 959 (1988); *In re Ford Motor Co. Vehicle Paint Litig.*, 182 F.R.D. 214, 222-24 (E.D. La. 1998) ("As far as the Court has been able to determine, state law variations [in fraud claims] exist necessitating multiple jury charges on each of the following issues: the burden of proof, the duty to disclose, materiality, reliance, and the measure of damages.").
- 40. **Breach of Warranty:**⁷ Courts in this jurisdiction and others have denied class certification upon finding that common questions of law do not predominate where the

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⁷ The Angell Plaintiffs' Second Amended Complaint contains causes of action for breach of express warranty. (*See* Angell Putative Class Claim at 49-55 ¶¶ 204-28.) The Debtors have no liability for such claims, and they were expressly assumed by the purchaser under the terms of the Master Sale and Purchase Agreement, dated as of June 1, 2009 (as amended, the "**Purchase Agreement**"). Specifically, pursuant to the Purchase Agreement, the purchaser assumed "all liabilities arising under express written warranties of Sellers that are specifically identified as

plaintiff alleges breach of warranty, whether those warranty claims involve common law, state statutes, or the federal Magnuson-Moss Warranty Act:

the states have diverse bodies of law on warranty The state laws on these claims present different procedural and substantive elements, including differing requirements of privity, demand, scienter and reliance. In addition, bringing the case under the Magnuson-Moss Act does not make uniform the plaintiffs' warranty claims because liability under that Act depends on state law which differs on issues of express and implied warranties. . . . Defendant's counsel presents a lengthy analysis of the diverse laws of the various states and has shown sufficiently that many of the jurisdictions have different standards and elements of proof for the claims of breach of express and implied warranty . . .

Kaczmarek, 186 F.R.D. at 313; see also In re Ford Motor Co. Ignition Switch Prods. Liab. Litig., 194 F.R.D. 484, 489-90 (D.N.J. 2000), reconsideration denied, 2001 WL 1869820 (D.N.J. Feb. 8, 2001) (warranty "claims [arising from a recall] vary significantly from state to state"); In re Ford Motor Co. Bronco II Prod. Liab. Litig., 177 F.R.D. 360, 369 (E.D. La. 1997), reconsideration denied, 1997 WL 191488 (E.D. La. Apr. 17, 1997) ("with respect to contract and warranty claims, the various states have different" laws); Walsh v. Ford Motor Co., 130 F.R.D. 260, 271 (D.D.C. 1990), reconsideration denied, 130 F.R.D. 514 (D.D.C. 1990), appeal dismissed, 945 F.2d 1188 (D.D. Cir. 1991) ("numerous variations exist among sates' laws concerning the scope and application of implied warranty claims").

41. Because the Court must apply the substantive laws of all jurisdictions from which the putative Angell Class Plaintiffs hail, and such application results in conflicting laws, the putative Angell class action cannot be certified.

warranties and delivered in connection with the sale of new, certified used or pre-owned vehicles or new or remanufactured motor vehicles and equipment (including service parts, accessories, engines and transmissions) manufactured or sold by Sellers or Purchaser prior to or after the Closing." (See Purchase Agmt. § 2.3(vii).)

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2. Necessity of Individual Fact Determinations Destroys Predominance

- 42. Courts also deny certification where "individualized issues of fact abound." *In re Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether ("MTBE") Prods. Liab. Litig.*, 209 F.R.D. 323, 349 (S.D.N.Y. 2002); *see also In re Worldcom, Inc.*, 343 B.R. at 427, n.26 ("the need to evaluate factual differences along with divergent legal issues defeats the predominance requirement under Rule 23(b)(3)") (internal quotes and citations omitted). Courts have specifically held that class actions alleging motor vehicle product liability claims and seeking economic loss damages should not be certified because individual questions of fact will predominate:
 - ... the need to establish injury and causation with respect to each class member will necessarily require a detailed factual inquiry including physical examination of each vehicle, a mind-boggling concept that is preclusively costly in both time and money. We will not certify a class that will result in an administrative process lasting for untold years, where individual threshold questions will overshadow common issues regarding Defendant's alleged conduct. Accordingly, we conclude that Plaintiff has not adequately shown that common issues predominate over individual issues. Courts are hesitant to certify classes in litigation where individual use factors present themselves, such as cases involving allegedly defective motor vehicles and parts. The administrative burdens are frequently too unmanageable for a class action to make sense in such cases.

Sanneman v. Chrysler Corp., 191 F.R.D. 441, 449 (E.D. Pa. 2000) (emphasis added).

43. The "preclusively costly" "administrative burdens" warned about in the *Sanneman* case would certainly be present in this action involving "in excess of 130,000 class vehicles." (Angell Putative Class Claim at 11 ¶ 42.) The Putative Classes purport to include all owners of select model year vehicles "sustaining monetary loss" (i) "incurred from repairing and/or replacing the class engine and components affected by oil sludge" or (ii) "incurred from diminution of class vehicle resale value, increased vehicle operating costs cause by the use of more expensive engine oil and more frequent oil changes than initially recommended in their

respective class vehicle owner's manual . . . and decreased engine performance resulting from engine oil sludge." (*Id.* at 10-11 ¶ 41.) Thus, the issue of whether a particular plaintiff's engine has "oil sludge" buildup caused by the alleged defects in the Debtors' Products would— alone—lead to a sharp divergence in the factual underpinnings of each claim. Such an individualized analysis is crucial in this case because a class member cannot succeed on a product liability-based claim unless that specific class member's product has had an actual malfunction. *See, e.g.*, *Wallis v. Ford Motor Co.*, 208 S.W.3d 153, 159 (Ark. 2005) (plaintiff must "allege that the vehicle has actually malfunctioned").

44. Additionally, individualized factual inquiries would need to be performed to address the issues of: (i) if, or when, "oil sludge" buildup occurs; (ii) the causation of any such "oil sludge" buildup; (iii) whether the allegedly defective engine is covered by warranty; (iv) whether the allegedly defective engine was already repaired by MLC; (v) whether the class member provided proper notice of the alleged breach of warranty to MLC; (vi) whether the class member properly maintained their vehicle; (vii) whether MLC and/or the consumer had knowledge of the alleged engine defect; (viii) whether the class member relied on MLC's alleged misrepresentations regarding the engine or the oil change recommendations, including the "special policy letter"; (ix) whether such alleged misrepresentations were material; (x) whether the class member timely submitted a claim under the "special policy letter"; (xi) whether such claims, if submitted, include proper documentation; (xii) whether a class member's claims are barred by the statue of limitations or other affirmative defenses such as comparative negligence (cause by, *inter alia*, the plaintiffs' failure to properly maintain the vehicle or improper use of

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⁸ For instance, Plaintiff Angell herself avers that "her husband and/or Jiffy Lube" may have used "low-quality" oil when servicing the engine. (*See* Angell Putative Class Claim at $22 \, \P \, 76$.)

the vehicle); (xiii) and what the appropriate remedy should be for any particular class member. This *nonexclusive* list provides a mere sampling of the myriad of factual differences that will "overshadow common issues." *See Sanneman*, 191 F.R.D. at 449. When coupled with the variations in law relevant to determining the foregoing facts, the Angell Plaintiffs cannot meet their burden of satisfying the predominance requirement and, thus, the class fails to meet the requirements of Rule 23.

- 45. Further individualized issues predominate because the Angell Putative Class Claim is based, in part, on fraudulent misrepresentation allegations that raise a host of individual issues of fact that render class treatment wholly unmanageable, including individual questions as to: the fact of product purchase or ownership; the differing marketing or statements; whether each class member was exposed to allegedly deceptive marketing or statements; and whether each class member purchased products as a result of such marketing or statements.
- 46. For example, the Angell Plaintiffs seek damages resulting from the increased costs of more frequent oil changes in order to comply with a "special policy letter" that was issued by the Debtors that changed the oil change recommendation for the Debtors' Products. (*See* Angell Putative Class Claim at 31 ¶ 115.) Angell Plaintiffs further allege that such "special policy letter" fraudulently concealed the "real cause of oil sludge." (*Id.* at 31 ¶ 116.) But there is no way to tell which putative members of the class received or reviewed this "special policy letter," or if such putative members in any way relied on the representations made in such "special policy letter." *See In re Woodward*, 205 B.R. at 372 (holding issue of fraud as common question of law or fact under Rule 23(b)(3) would require a showing of reliance on the part of each class member, and such a showing was "[I]acking in this case [where reliance on an

advertisement is at issue] is the single set of operative facts that can be applied on a class wide basis . . . Because the incidents did not occur in a single place, at the same time, or under identical conditions, individualized issues of causation arise."). Accordingly, individualized issues regarding reliance alone would prohibit certification. Further, given the absence of any objective evidence of who purchased such products or relied upon any of the Debtors' alleged misrepresentations, the Court would be required, at the threshold, to make a series of individual credibility determinations as to who is and is not a member of the Putative Classes. *See In re Phenylpropanolamine (PPA) Prods. Liab. Litig.*, 214 F.R.D. 614, 618 (W.D. Wash. 2003) (motion to certify class asserting consumer fraud claims on behalf of non-injured consumers of PPA products denied primarily because of difficulty in determining who had even purchased products at issue).

47. Numerous individual issues also exist as to whether any alleged misrepresentation caused each particular class member to purchase any product, precluding class certification. For this reason, courts routinely reject class certification of cases claiming unfair trade practices, breach of warranty, unjust enrichment and other claims similar to those alleged here – including in cases in which plaintiffs allege a common, class-wide product defect – because of the overwhelming number of *individual issues* relating to reliance, causation, and materiality.⁹

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⁹ See, e.g., Sikes v. Teleline, Inc., 281 F.3d 1350, 1362-66 (11th Cir. 2002) (certification of fraud class action vacated because individual issues of reliance and causation predominated); Andrews v. Am. Tel. & Tel. Co., 95 F.3d 1014, 1024-25 (11th Cir. 1996), reh'g denied, 104 F.3d 373 (11th Cir. 1996) (same); Castano, 84 F.3d at 737, 745 (denying certification in action where claims included "violation of state consumer protection statutes" and "disgorge[ment]" of profits, holding that class action "cannot be certified when individual reliance will be an issue"); In re Rezulin Prods. Liab. Litig., 210 F.R.D. at 68-69 (individual issues would predominate on claim for restitution of purchase price arising from alleged undisclosed product dangers); Chin, 182 F.R.D. at 455-47 (denying class certification in case asserting latent product defect in light of many individual issues of fact, including

48. Finally, determination of whether each class member suffered "actual injury," would require an individualized inquiry into the degree of efficacy of the product for that particular class member – an inquiry that would, once again, swamp any common issues and render class treatment wholly unmanageable.

C. The Angell Plaintiffs Cannot Establish that a Class Action Is Superior to Other Available Methods for Fairly and Efficiently Adjudicating this Controversy

49. In addition to the requirement that common questions of law or fact must predominate over individual issues, the Angell Plaintiffs must also establish "that a class action is superior to other available methods for fairly and efficiently adjudicating the controversy." Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3). Given the vast number of individual variations of law and fact that would be involved with allowing this case to proceed as a nationwide class action, the action would be unmanageable as a single trial. The issue of MLC's liability would have to be litigated in thousands of trials which, even if logistically feasible, would violate the constitutional mandate that "entitles parties to have fact issues decided by one jury, and prohibits a second jury from reexamining those facts and issues." *Castano*, 84 F.3d at 750 (denying certification for lack of superiority); *see also Rhone-Poulenc Rorer, Inc.*, 51 F.3d 1293, 1303 (7th Cir. 1995),

ascertainable injury, causation, reliance and privity); *In re Ford Motor Co. Bronco II Prod. Liab. Litig.*, 177 F.R.D. at 372-75 (same); *In re Ford Motor Co. Ignition Switch Prods. Liab. Litig.*, 174 F.R.D. at 342-44 (same); *Truckway, Inc. v. Gen. Elec.*, No. Civ. A. 91-0122, 1992 WL 70575, at *5, *7 (E.D. Pa. Mar. 30, 1992) (individual issues predominated in state consumer fraud action "[b]ecause not all members of the class would have relied on the alleged fraudulent material omissions and misrepresentation . . . and because a determination of whether each member of the class was defrauded . . . would require each class member to individually prove the issue of reliance and fraud on a case by case basis"). *See also Hurd v. Monsanto Co.*, 164 F.R.D. 234, 240 n.3 (S.D. Ind. 1995) ("The necessity of proving reliance by each class member upon the alleged fraudulent misrepresentations causes individual

predominate over the common issues of liability"); *Strain v. Nutri/System, Inc.*, No. Civ. A. 90-2772, 1990 WL 209325, at *6 (E.D. Pa. Dec. 12, 1990) (class certification denied where "each class member [would have] to narrate a story which includes individualized proof of which advertisements he saw and whether they indeed enrolled in reliance of those advertisements").

issues to predominate."); Sunbird Air Servs., Inc. v. Beech Aircraft Corp., Civ. A. No. 89-2181-V, 1992 WL 193661,

at *5 (D. Kan. July 15, 1992) ("individual issues of causation and reliance as to each class member would

cert. denied, 516 U.S. 867 (1995) (same); In re Masonsite Corp. Hardboard Siding Prods. Liab. Litig., 170 F.R.D. 417, 427 (E.D. La. 1997) (same). Given that a class action is not manageable in this case, it is not superior to other available methods for fairly and efficiently adjudicating the controversy, and thus, the Putative Classes cannot meet the requirements of Rule 23.

D. Neither "Commonality" nor "Typicality" Can Be Established by the Angell Plaintiffs

- 50. To proceed as a class claim, Rule 23(a)(2) and Rule 23(a)(3) require that the putative class representative also demonstrate commonality and typicality. To establish typicality, plaintiffs must show that they are situated similarly to class members. The Court cannot "presume" that plaintiffs' claims are typical of other claims. *Gen. Tel. Co. of Sw. v. Falcon*, 457 U.S. 147, 158, 160 (1982) ("actual, not presumed, conformance with Rule 23(a) remains, however, indispensable").
- 51. The Angell Plaintiffs' claims are not typical of those alleged on behalf of any of their respective Putative Classes. First, each Angell Plaintiff's claim allegedly arises from certain of the Debtors' Products that the Angell Plaintiffs claim to have purchased and operated, allegedly in reliance upon defendants fraudulent representations as to the oil change maintenance recommendations and the standard and quality of the engines in such vehicles. (*See* Angell Putative Class Claim at 10 ¶ 41.) Yet, the Putative Classes would include plaintiffs who followed *differing* maintenance programs, operated their vehicles *differently*, and that purchased

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¹⁰ See Marisol A. by Forbes v. Giuliani, 126 F.3d 372, 376 (2d Cir. 1997) (typicality "requires that the claims of the class representative be typical of those of the class, and 'is satisfied when each class member's claim arises from the same course of events, and each member makes similar arguments to prove the defendant's liability") (quoting In re Drexel, 960 F.2d at 291); see, e.g., Mace v. Van Ru Credit Corp., 109 F.3d 338, 341 (7th Cir. 1997) ("The typicality and commonality requirements of the Federal Rules ensure that only those plaintiffs or defendants who can advance the same factual and legal arguments may be grouped together as a class").

vehicles under a variety of *different* factual circumstances. *See*, *e.g.*, *Lundquist v. Sec. Pac. Auto*. *Fin. Servs. Corp.*, 993 F.2d 11, 14 (2d Cir. 1993), *cert. denied*, 510 U.S. 959 (1993) (typicality defeated by plaintiff's broad definition of class as all individuals who signed similar automobile lease agreements).

52. Finally, the Angell Plaintiffs' claims cannot be typical of those of all members of the Putative Classes because the bases of the unfair and deceptive trade practices claims vary greatly. The claims are based on a variety of allegedly deceptive marketing practices, including, but not limited to, the Debtors' false representations of Debtors' Products as "designed by aeronautical engineers" (Angell Putative Class Claim at 50 ¶ 207); that such products were "of a particular standard or quality when in fact [they] were not" (id. at 50 ¶ 207); that the owner's manual and service booklet that accompanied the class vehicles contained the wrong oil change recommendations (id. at 25 \P 92); that the Debtors falsely represented that "low quality oil and/or poor maintenance and/or certain driving conditions caused [the Angell Plaintiffs'] engine failures (id. at $20 \, \P \, 67$); that the Debtors' fraudulently concealed the Debtors' Products alleged "defects and incorrect class engine maintenance recommendations concerning oil specifications, engine oil type and oil change intervals" (id. at 25 \P 92); that Debtors made false representations regarding "reliable long-life efficient engines, low vehicle maintenance and inexpensive operating costs" (id. at $25 \, \P \, 93$); and that the "special policy letter" issued by the Debtors "fraudulently concealed the real cause of oil sludge" (id. at 31 ¶ 116). Each member of the Putative Classes might base his or her unfair and deceptive trade practice claim on one or more of the foregoing assertions, might have seen or been induced to purchase by one or a combination of statements, and might have considered some, all, or none of the foregoing

assertions to be material. On the face of the Angell Putative Class Claim, there could be no "typical" plaintiff for the unlimited permutations of factual predicates for the claims alleged.

E. The Angell Plaintiffs Are Not Adequate Representatives

- 53. To establish that it will adequately represent the proposed class, the Angell Plaintiffs must have common interests with the unnamed members of the class, and it must appear that the Angell Plaintiffs will vigorously prosecute the interests of the class through qualified counsel. See, e.g., Edwards v. McCormick, 196 F.R.D. 487, 495 (S.D. Ohio 2000). Initially, without evidence of who would actually comprise the class, a court cannot evaluate whether the Angell Plaintiffs have a common interest with the unnamed class members, and any determination of adequate representation would be purely speculative. *Id.* Furthermore, the required elements that the plaintiffs have "claims or defenses typical of the class" and that they can "adequately represent and protect the interests of other members of the class" are intertwined: "to be an adequate representative, plaintiff must show that his claims are typical of the claims of the class." See, e.g., Caro v. Proctor & Gamble Co., 18 Cal. App. 4th 644, 669 (1993) ("[T]o be an adequate representative, plaintiff must show that his claims are typical of the claims of the class.") (quoting Stephens v. Montgomery Ward, 193 Cal. App. 3d 411, 422 (1987)). As described above, there can be no "typical" plaintiff and, thus, no adequate representative for any of the Putative Classes.
- 54. Moreover, the burden to move expeditiously for class certification and recognition within a bankruptcy proceeding, in compliance with Rule 23(c)(1), falls on the class representative and "the class representative's failure to move for class certification is a strong indication that he will not fairly and adequately represent the interests of the class." *In re*

Woodward, 205 B.R. at 370. As the Angell Putative Class Claim fails to meet the requirements of Rule 23, the Court should not allow it to proceed as a class claim, and it should be disallowed.

F. The Members of the Putative Angell Classes Are Not Properly Identifiable

"identifiable" or ascertainable. *See In re MTBE Prods. Liab. Litig.*, 209 F.R.D. at 336-37. This requirement is not satisfied if a court must conduct a merits inquiry merely to determine who is included in the proposed class. For example, the identity of a class defined as "all individuals harmed by defendants' negligence" would not be ascertainable, because a court would need to determine if the defendant was negligent and who was harmed by such negligence merely to identify the putative class members. *See Barasich v. Shell Pipeline Co.*, No. 05-4180, 2008 WL 6468611, at *4 (E.D. La. June 19, 2008) (striking class allegations of class defined as "[a]ll commercial oystermen whose oyster leases were contaminated by oil discharged during Hurricane Katrina due to the negligence of defendants").

56. The class definitions of the Putative Classes in the Angell Putative Class Claim suffer from this same defect. The first proposed sub-class includes:

All owners, former owners, lessees and former lessees of class vehicles whether individuals or business entities sustaining monetary loss incurred from repairing and/or replacing the class engine and components *affected by oil sludge*.

(*Id.* at 10-11 ¶ 41 (emphasis added).) The second putative sub-class includes:

All owners, former owners, lessees and former lessees of class vehicles whether individuals or business entities sustaining monetary loss incurred by diminution of class vehicle resale value, increased vehicle operating costs caused by the use of more expensive engine oil and more frequent oil changes than initially recommended in their respective class vehicle owner's manual

(including but not limited to maintenance stated in Saab's "special policy") and decreased engine performance *resulting from engine oil sludge*.

(*Id.* (emphasis added).)

57. In order to determine class membership, the Court would, thus, need to first determine whether the putative class members' vehicles were negatively affected by "oil sludge." Accordingly, the members of the Putative Classes are not properly ascertainable under Rule 23 and should be disallowed. *See In re Vioxx Prods. Liab. Litig.*, No. MDL 1657, 2008 WL 4681368, at *9-10 (E.D. La. Oct. 21, 2008), *aff'd*, 300 F. App'x 261 (5th Cir. Nov. 17, 2008); *Brazil v. Dell Inc.*, 585 F. Supp. 2d 1158, 1167 (N.D. Cal. 2008); *Barasich*, 2008 WL 6468611, at *4.

Notice

- 58. Notice of this Motion has been provided to the Angell Plaintiffs and to the parties in interest in accordance with the Order Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 105(a) and Fed. R. Bankr. P. 1015(c) and 9007 Establishing Notice and Case Management Procedures, dated August 3, 2009 [Docket No. 3629]. The Debtors submit that such notice is sufficient and no other or further notice need be provided.
- 59. No previous request for the relief sought herein has been made by the Debtors to this or any other Court.

WHEREFORE the Debtors respectfully request entry of an order granting the

relief requested herein and such other and further relief as is just. 11

Dated: New York, New York January 29, 2010

/s/ Joseph H. Smolinsky

Harvey R. Miller Stephen Karotkin Joseph H. Smolinsky

WEIL, GOTSHAL & MANGES LLP 767 Fifth Avenue New York, New York 10153 Telephone: (212) 310-8000 Facsimile: (212) 310-8007

Attorneys for Debtors and Debtors in Possession

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¹¹ Should the Court find it appropriate to permit the Angell Putative Class Claim to proceed as a class claim in whole or in part, the Debtors reserve their rights to request that an expedited procedure be established in this Court to quickly liquidate such claim and an expedited hearing to estimate the Angell Putative Class Claim pursuant to section 502(c) of the Bankruptcy Code. *See* 11 U.S.C. § 502(c) ("There *shall* be estimated for purposes of allowance under this section – (1) any contingent or unliquidated claim, the fixing or liquidation of which, as the case may be, would unduly delay the administration of the case…") (emphasis added); *see also In re Chateaugay Corp.*, 10 F.3d 944, 957 (2d Cir. 1993); *In re Thomson McKinnon Sec.*, *Inc.*, 143 B.R. 612, 619 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1992). Further, should an estimation proceeding go forward, the Angell Plaintiffs should be required to provide substantial documentation to support the alleged nature of their \$615 million claim.

Exhibit A

Angell Putative Class Claim Proof of Claim No. 903

Date 07/14/2009

Signature The person filing this claim must sign it. Sign and print name and title, if any, of the credit other person authorized to file this claim and state address and telephone number if different from the nonce. ۱<u>۲</u> ۲ add as above. Attach copy of power of attorney, if any

Thomas P Sobran

Penalty for presenting fraudulent claim. Fine of up to \$500,000 or imprisonment for up to 5 years, or both 18 USC \$\\$ 152 and 3571

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THE MIN TORE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

SUSAN B. ANGELL and PRUDENCE REID, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, Plaintiffs,

v

CIVIL ACTION NO 1 08-CV-11201-DPW

SAAB AUTOMOBILE AB, SAAB CARS USA, INC, SAAB CARS HOLDINGS CORP, and, GENERAL MOTORS CORPORATION, Defendants.

SECOND AMENDED CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT AND REQUEST FOR JURY TRIAL Introduction

1. Susan B Angell (hereinafter "Angell") and Prudence Reid (hereinafter "Reid") through their counsel, on behalf of themselves and all other individuals and entities similarly situated (as more fully discussed infra), initiate this proposed class action involving 1999 through and including 2003 model year Saab 9-5 vehicles equipped with a four cylinder engine, 2000 through and including 2002 model year Saab 9-3 vehicles, 2000 through and including 2003 model year Saab 9-3 convertible vehicles and 1999 through and including 2002 model year Saab Viggen vehicles sold in the United States (hereinafter "class vehicle" or "class vehicles")

- 2 Class vehicles are equipped with four cylinder multi-valve turbocharged engines (hereinafter "class engine" or "class engines").
- 3 All class engines are predisposed to partial deterioration and/or complete and total destruction within the express warranty period caused by engine oil sludge and carbon deposits
- 4. Oil sludge results from thermal and chemical degradation of engine oil. 1
- 5 While some engine mechanical wear is anticipated during normal operation of any motor vehicle, class vehicles have abnormally accelerated wear to internal engine components (such as camshafts, engine bearings, camshaft chains and balance chains together with dozens of other expensive to repair associated parts) caused by the formation of engine oil sludge ² 6. The class engine turbochargers also experience abnormally accelerated wear to the bearings, shafts and seals resulting in premature failure at less than one third of its anticipated useful life
- 7 Class engines are defective with respect to their design and workmanship, materials and manufacture predisposing the class

Oil sludge refers to both the viscous sludge and hard carbon deposits.

 $^{^2}$ Class engines did not perform satisfactorily from the date of first use through to the truncated life of the engine

engines to oil sludge deposits caused in part by the low friction design.

- 8. Low friction pistons, piston rings and other components increase the amount of combustion by-products escaping from the cylinders into the crankcase during the compression and power phases of engine operation.
- 9. The class engine crankcase ventilation system is improperly designed and manufactured and fails to adequately vent crankcase gases that are toxic to the engine oil and create oil sludge 10. While class vehicles operate in their intended and foreseeable environment, engine oil sludge is concurrently generated by the defectively designed crankcase ventilation system
- 11. The only corrective measure to remedy class engine defects is a redesign of the engine block and internal components and the crankcase ventilation system. These modifications were subsequently undertaken for second generation 9-3 and 9-5 Saab vehicles.
- 12. Class vehicles are defective since they were accompanied by an owner's manual and service record booklet that incorporated incorrect engine oil recommendations (including but not limited to the use of mineral oil, semi-synthetic oil and viscosity) and oil change intervals of 10,000.

- 13. Another concurrent cause of oil sludge deposits in class engines is use of improperly recommended oil and oil change intervals. Specifically, use of mineral oil or semi-synthetic engine oil leads to the formation of oil sludge, loss of oil lubrication properties, deposits in the engine oil passages and crankcase breathing tubes and eventual engine failure even if the initial and supplemental maintenance recommendations are followed.
- Mineral oil or semi-synthetic oil satisfying the American Petroleum Institute specifications and viscosity recommended by the owner's manuals accompanying class vehicles causes oil sludge in class engines, particularly where recommended 10,000 mile oil change intervals are followed.
- 15 Engine oil sludge deposits cause reduced and/or complete loss of internal engine component lubrication by restricting the oil tube pickup screen, oil passages and galleries resulting in increased friction between contact surfaces severely damaging or destroying class engines
- 16 Engine oil sludge disrupts the heat transfer of internal engine components, further accelerating engine wear
- 17. Class engines are inherently defective and are failing due to oil sludge after accumulating only one quarter to one-half of their reasonably anticipated useful lifetime mileage

18. Angell, Reid and members of the proposed class request injunctive relief, monetary damages including treble damages, court costs and attorneys' fees under theories of breach of contract, breach of express and implied warranties, unfair and deceptive business act practices prohibited by M.G.L. c. 93A, §9 and unjust enrichment and restitution

Parties to this Proceeding

- 19 Angell is an adult individual who resides at 109 Lunenburg Road, West Townsend, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, 01474

 Angell owns a 2000 model year Saab 9-3. Angell initially leased her class vehicle through Village Saab, an authorized Massachusetts Saab dealership in March of 2000. Angell purchased the vehicle in May of 2002
- Revere, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, 02151. At all times relevant to this class action complaint, Reid owned a 2001 model year Saab 9-5 equipped with a four-cylinder engine Reid purchased her class vehicle from a Massachusetts car dealership in 2003 while the vehicle was still within the original warranty that was fully transferable to her. The prior owner and/or dealer did not furnish any maintenance records for Reid's class vehicle at the time of purchase or any subsequent time.

- 21. Saab Automobile AB (hereinafter "Saab AB") is a duly organized Swedish corporation located in Trollhattan, Sweden Saab AB designed, manufactured and tested Angell's 2000 model year Saab 9-3, Reid's 2001 model year 9-5 and all other class vehicles
- 22 Saab AB had substantial participation in drafting the owner's manual and warranties (including the so-called "special policy letter") that accompanied Angell's Saab, Reid's Saab and all other class vehicles. Saab AB has substantial participation in the importation, advertisement, marketing, distribution and sale of Saab motor vehicles in the United States, including Angell's 2000 model year Saab 9-3, Reid's 2001 model year 9-5 and all other class vehicles
- 23 Saab AB had substantial participation in drafting service and repair publications for class vehicles including Technical Service Bulletins and Technical News as well as other related materials.
- 24. At all relevant times, Saab Cars USA, Inc (hereinafter "Saab Cars") was a duly organized Delaware corporation with a principal place of business at Renaissance Center, Detroit, Michigan, 48265. Saab Cars imports, advertises, markets, distributes and sells Saab motor vehicles manufactured by Saab

- AB, including Angell's 2000 model year Saab 9-3, Reid's 2001 model year 9-5 and all other class vehicles.
- 25 Saab Cars had substantial participation in drafting the owner's manual and warranties (including the so-called "special policy letter") that accompanied Angell's 2000 model year Saab 9-3, Reid's 2001 model year 9-5 and all other class vehicles.
- 26 Saab Cars had substantial participation in drafting service and repair publications for class vehicles including Technical Service Bulletins and Technical News as well as other related materials.
- 27. At all relevant times, Saab Cars acted as an agent of Saab AB and General Motors Corporation, including activities concerning warranties, warranty repairs, dissemination of technical information and monitoring the performance of Saab vehicles in the United States.
- 28. At all relevant times, Saab Cars Holdings Corp (hereinafter "Saab Holdings") was a duly organized Delaware corporation with a principal place of business at Renaissance Center, Detroit, Michigan, 48265.
- 29. In October of 2007, Saab Cars merged into Saab Holdings Saab Holdings assumed the assets, liabilities (including all warranty obligations) and duties of Saab Cars.

- 30 Saab Holdings acts as an agent of Saab AB, including activities concerning warranties, warranty repairs, dissemination of technical information and monitoring the performance of Saab vehicles in the United States
- 31. General Motors Corporation (hereinafter "GM") is a duly organized Delaware corporation with a principal place of business at Renaissance Center, Detroit, Michigan, 48265 GM also does business as Saab Automobile USA and Saab USA in the United States.
- 32 GM imports, advertises, markets, distributes and sells Saab motor vehicles manufactured by Saab AB including Angell's 2000 model year Saab 9-3, Reid's 2001 model year 9-5 and all other class vehicles
- 33. GM had substantial participation in the drafting of the owner's manual and warranties (including the so-called "special policy letter") that accompanied all class vehicles.
- 34 GM had substantial participation in drafting of service and repair publications for class vehicles including Technical Service Bulletins and Technical News as well as other related materials.
- 35. In October of 2007, GM assumed the assets, liabilities (including all warranty obligations) and duties of Saab Cars

 36. GM acts as an agent of Saab AB, including activities

concerning warranties, warranty repairs, dissemination of technical information and monitoring the performance of Saab vehicles in the United States.

37. GM is the parent company of Saab AB, Saab Cars, Saab Automobile and Saab Holdings (hereinafter collectively referred to as "defendants").

Jurisdictional and Venue Statement

- 38. This district court has original jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §1332(d)(2)(A)-(C), 28 U.S.C. §1332(d)(5)(B), 28 U.S.C. §1332(d)(6) and 28 U.S.C. §1367 since diversity jurisdiction exists between Angell, Reid and the defendants, there are in excess of 130,000 proposed class members and the matter in controversy exceeds the sum of \$5,000,000.00, exclusive of interest and costs
- In personam jurisdiction exists over the defendants under the so-called Massachusetts long arm statute, M.G.L c 223A, §3 The defendants are persons within the context of M.G.L. c 223A, §1. The defendants directly and through their agents regularly transact business and otherwise derive substantial revenue in Massachusetts. The defendants conduct continuous and systematic economic activities in Massachusetts. The defendants intentionally and purposefully placed their vehicles and/or

 $^{^3}$ Chapter 223A is captioned "Jurisdiction of Courts of the Commonwealth Over Persons in Other States and Countries"

components in the stream of commerce in Massachusetts. Subjecting the defendants to in personam jurisdiction in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts does not violate the defendants' due process rights and comports with requirements of fair play and substantial justice

40. Venue is conferred by 28 U.S.C. §1391 as the defendants regularly and purposefully do business in this judicial district and a substantial part of the events giving rise to the claim occurred here.⁴

Class Action Allegations⁵

Angell and Reid bring this class action pursuant to Fed. R
Civ P 23(b)(1), 23(b)(2) and 23(b)(3) on behalf of themselves
and all members of the two proposed sub-classes (hereinafter
collectively referred as "proposed class members") defined as
follows (sub-class no. 1) All owners, former owners, lessees
and former lessees of class vehicles whether individuals or
business entities sustaining monetary loss incurred from

⁴ Saab Cars and GM maintained offices and training facilities in Massachusetts during the relevant time period

M.G L c 93A §9(2) allows class certification under less stringent requirements than Fed. R Civ. P. 23(a) Under §9(2), Angell may commence a class action on behalf of herself and others "if the use or employment of the unfair or deceptive act or practice has caused similar injury to numerous other persons similarly situated and if the court finds in a preliminary hearing that [s]he adequately and fairly represents such other persons,"

repairing and/or replacing the class engine and components affected by oil sludge; and, (sub-class no 2) All owners, former owners, lessees and former lessees of class vehicles whether individuals or business entities sustaining monetary loss incurred by diminution of class vehicle resale value, increased vehicle operating costs caused by the use of more expensive engine oil and more frequent oil changes than initially recommended in their respective class vehicle owner's manual (including but not limited to maintenance stated in Saab's "special policy") and decreased engine performance resulting from engine oil sludge. Excluded from the proposed sub-classes are the defendants, their United subsidiaries, agents and representatives Also excluded from the proposed sub-classes are all persons claiming personal injuries caused by engine defects in the class vehicles. Further excluded from the proposed sub-classes are the presiding judge and magistrate to this proceeding and any immediate family

Numerosity of the Class

42. The proposed class is so numerous that individual joinder of all potential members is impracticable under Fed R. Civ. P 19 or 20 There are in excess of 130,000 class vehicles imported into the United States. Although the number, location and

identity of all proposed class members cannot be presently ascertained, this information is obtainable through discovery from the defendants.

Existence of Common Questions of Law and Fact

- 43. Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of the proposed sub-classes and predominate any and all issues of law and fact affecting individual members of the class. These issues include but are not limited to
 - a. Whether class engines are defectively designed and/or manufactured so as to predispose the engine to the accumulation of oil sludge and resulting engine failure;
 - b. Whether class engines sustained damage directly or indirectly by accumulation of oil sludge;
 - c. Whether class vehicles were sold with incorrect oil and owner's manuals incorporating incorrect engine oil recommendations and oil change intervals;
 - d Whether the defendants breached their contract for the sale of class vehicles by unilaterally modifying class engine oil recommendations and oil change intervals for class vehicles,
 - e Whether the defendants breached their implied warranties in that class vehicles were defective with respect to engine design and manufacture,

- f. Whether the defendants breached their implied warranties in that class vehicles were accompanied by an owner's manual incorporating incorrect engine oil recommendations and oil change intervals;
- g. Whether the defendants breached their express warranties in that class vehicles were defective with respect to engine design and manufacture;
- h. Whether the defendants breached their express warranties in that class vehicles were accompanied by an owner's manual incorporating incorrect engine oil recommendations and oil change intervals;
- whether the defendants fraudulently or negligently misrepresented material facts concerning the characteristics of class vehicles;
- yehicles and actively, affirmatively and fraudulently concealed the existence of defects in the vehicles and/or accompanying manuals,
- k. Whether the defendants committed unfair and deceptive business trade act practices in the sale of class vehicles, vehicle warranties and the special policy;
- Whether the defendants had a duty to disclose their knowledge of class vehicle engine defects and knowledge

- that the owner's manual for class vehicles set forth incorrect engine oil recommendations and oil change intervals,
- M Whether the defendants breached representations set forth in the special policy letter concerning reimbursement and repairs to class engine components,
- n. Whether the defendants were unjustly enriched by their warranty breaches, misrepresentations and deceptive business practices,
- o Whether proposed class members are entitled to restitution, monetary damages and/or injunctive relief;
- p Whether the court should establish a constructive trust funded by the benefits conferred upon the defendants by their wrongful and unlawful conduct;
- q Whether class vehicles have a diminished life and residual value;
- r Whether proposed class members are able to afford individual litigation against the defendants; and,
- s Whether the defendants had a duty to disclose the safety risks of unanticipated sudden engine failure caused by oil sludge.

Typicality of Claims or Defenses of a Definable Class

44 The claims and defenses of proposed class representatives Angell and Reid are typical of the claims and defenses of proposed class members. Class claims arise out of ownership and/or lease of class vehicles as defined in ¶1 The defendants in this proposed class action have no counterclaims or defenses unique to proposed class representatives Angell and/or Reid

Adequate Representation

45. Proposed class representatives Angell and Reid have no conflicting interests with any other class member. Angell and Reid will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class. Claims of proposed class representatives Angell, Reid, and the proposed class members' claims are so interrelated that the interests of the proposed class members will be fairly and adequately protected in their absence. Angell and Reid have retained counsel adequate to protect the interests of all proposed class members.

Superiority of a Class Action

46. Maintenance of a class action is the most economical procedural device to litigate the class vehicle defect claims

Prosecution of separate actions by or against individual class members would create a risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual class members that

would establish incompatible standards of conduct for the defendants as recognized by Fed. R. Civ P 23(b)(1)(A)

- 47 Prosecution of separate actions by or against individual class members would create the risk of inconsistent adjudications with respect to individual class members which would as a practical matter be dispositive of the interests of other members not parties to the adjudications or substantially impair or impede their ability to protect their interests as recognized by Fed R Civ. P Rule 23(b)(1)(B).
- 48. There is a substantial likelihood that the defendants will act or refuse to act on grounds generally applicable to the class, so that final injunctive relief or corresponding declaratory relief is appropriate as recognized by Fed. R Civ P. 23(b)(2)
- 49 Questions of law and fact common to members of the class predominate over any questions affecting any individual members and a class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy as recognized by Fed R. Civ P 23(b)(3)

Further Allegations

50. Angell, Reid and proposed class members had valid and binding contracts with Saab AB, Saab Cars and GM and were

reasonably expected by these defendants to use their respective class vehicles in the manner in which the vehicles were used

- 51 Angell, Reid and proposed class members complied with all contractual obligations including all warranty, maintenance and product use obligations for their respective class vehicles
- 52 Angell, Reid and proposed class members operated their vehicles under normal anticipated driving conditions and did not meet any elements specified by the defendants as requiring additional vehicle maintenance
- Angell, Reid and proposed class members changed the engine oil more frequently than the 10,000 mile intervals recommended in the owner's manual and service booklet that accompanied their class vehicles
- Angell used mineral based oil and in her class engine. The owner's manual and service booklet that accompanied her class vehicle authorized the use of mineral oil, semi or full synthetic oil
- 55. In June of 2003, Angell's 2000 Saab 9-3 class engine sustained engine failure caused by engine oil sludge
- 56 Within forty-eight hours of engine failure, Angell had her vehicle towed to the authorized Saab dealer (Village Saab) from whom she purchased the vehicle and provided requisite notice of

the defendants' breaches of warranties with respect to her vehicle.

- 57. Saab Cars received Angell's breach of warranties notice through Village Saab
- 58. Saab Cars refused to reimburse or compensate Angell for any class engine repair expenses or provide substitute transportation.
- 59. Although the engine failure occurred outside the express warranty period, Angell's vehicle exhibited unmistakable symptoms (known only by Saab AB, Saab Cars and GM) of engine oil sludge within the express warranty
- 60 Those symptoms include the engine turbocharger failure and two crankcase ventilation system failures requiring installation of system upgrades 6
- 61 Through no fault of her own, Angell did not possess sufficient automotive technical expertise to recognize these symptoms of impending engine failure although this information was well known to Saab AB, Saab Cars and GM but kept secret

⁶ The turbocharger was replaced under warranty because Saab Cars accepted the vehicle's oil change documentation and maintenance history, including the two oil changes performed by Angell's husband at 28,000 and 36,000 miles. Prior to engine failure, other major component failures included the ignition discharge module and climate control system. Angell's ignition discharge module failed in June of 2002. In October of 2005, Saab Cars announced a warranty recall and reimbursement program for this component.

- 62. Saab Cars (through the service department of authorized dealer Village Saab) fraudulently informed Angell that her engine failed as the result of the use of low quality grade mineral engine oil that did not meet the recommendations set out in the owner's manual for her vehicle.
- 63. Angell believed and relied on the information she received from Saab Cars that mineral oil provided by her husband and/or Jiffy Lube caused engine failure
- 64. Material misrepresentations and fraudulent statements were made by employees of Saab Cars within days of when Angell had her vehicle towed to Village Saab for engine repair.
- 65. These statements were repeated over the course of several months by the employees of Village Saab who were in contact with the regional Saab Cars representative whose approval was required for reimbursement of expensive warranty engine repairs.
- 66. The regional Saab Cars representative denied any warranty repair on the basis that Angell used low quality engine oil and this caused engine failure. When asked as to the cause of her vehicle's engine failure, Saab Cars actively and fraudulently concealed the existence of class engine design and manufacture defects and that class vehicles were accompanied by an owner's

manual that incorporated improper oil recommendations and oil change intervals.

- 67 The representations made by Saab Cars to Angell (shortly after the engine failure in her vehicle and by Saab Cars, Saab AB and/or GM to other class members after their engines failed or were badly sludged) that low quality oil and/or poor maintenance and/or certain driving conditions caused their respective engine failures were false and fraudulent.
- 68. Authorized Saab dealers did not have knowledge of and/or were counseled not to admit that any defects existed in the class engine or improper maintenance recommendations were incorporated in the owner's manual or service booklet.
- 69. Saab dealers (who also had a vested financial interest in concealing and suppressing the actual cause of engine oil sludge) blamed oil sludge on low quality mineral oil, poor maintenance and certain driving conditions.
- 70. Saab AB and Saab Cars discontinued recommending mineral oil for all 2001-2003 model year class vehicles. Saab AB, Saab Cars and GM knew that the use of any mineral based engine oil

Additional information supporting allegations of this fraud and fraudulent conduct is in the control of the defendants. This information includes but is not limited to engineering analyses, warranty claims and internal corporate communications concerning how to deal with consumers who claim their class vehicles were damaged by engine oil sludge

was causing engine oil sludge and engine failures in class vehicles.8

71 Initially, Saab AB, Saab Cars and GM attempted to remedy oil sludge accumulation caused by defective class engines by crankcase ventilation system modifications and recommending only semi and full synthetic oil

72 Angell incurred approximately \$4000 00 in expenses replacing the engine in her class vehicle. Angell lost the use of her 2000 Saab 9-3 for over five months and incurred substantial inconvenience and expense in obtaining alternative transportation

73. In 2003, J G. Service replaced the engine in Angell's vehicle J G Service is a competent independent Saab repair facility with extensive experience and specialization in the repair of Saab vehicles. In 2003, J. G Service believed that engine sludge in class vehicle was caused by the use of low quality mineral oils

74. J. G. Service did not know design defects in the engines of class vehicles were causing and/or substantially contributing to the formation of engine oil sludge and that any type of mineral

The owner's manual and service booklet did not alter the recommended 10,000 mile oil change interval for class vehicles manufactured after September of 2000 (2001-2003 model year class vehicles). No notice was sent to owners of 1999-2000 class vehicles concerning the use of mineral based engine oil.

- oil (high quality, medium quality or low quality), would result in oil sludge in class engines even if recommended service intervals were followed
- 75. When asked by Angell, the mechanics at J. G. Service incorrectly opined that the engine failure was caused by low quality mineral oil
- Angell believed that her engine failed because her husband and/or Jiffy Lube used low quality mineral oil when servicing the engine. This belief was induced by fraudulent statements made by Saab Cars and incorrect statements made by employees of J. G Service.
- 77 Angell had no reason to believe that the engine in her vehicle failed from a cause other than the use of low quality mineral oil.
- Angell diligently and dutifully inquired as to other causes of her vehicle's premature engine failure and found no evidence contradicting what she had been told by Saab Cars or mechanics at J.G. Service who she believed to be (and in fact were) competent independent Saab mechanics.
- 79 Expert Saab engine mechanics would not have known prior to 2005 that design and manufacture defects in the engine (and not the use of mineral oil) were causing engine oil sludge.

- 80. Expert Saab engine mechanics would not have known that the class vehicle manufacturer (Saab AB) and/or Saab Cars recommended incorrect oil service for class vehicles given the design and manufacture of the engine.
- 81 This type of information was propriety in nature and known only by Saab AB, Saab Cars and GM until 2005 when first disclosed by Saab AB in Europe.
- 82. A reasonable person in Angell's position would have believed that engine failure was the result of using low quality mineral oil.
- A reasonable person in Angell's position making an inquiry into the cause of engine failure would not have discovered that class engines had design and manufacture defects and improper maintenance recommendations because those facts were inherently unknowable and were further concealed by Saab AB, Saab Cars and GM's affirmative acts (including active fraud with the intent to deceive).
- 84 Angell acted diligently and made reasonable inquiries but failed to learn that a cause of action existed for her vehicle's engine failure until 2005
- 85. Saab AB, Saab Cars and GM had actual knowledge that oil sludge was causing extensive irreversible premature wear in

class engines in July of 1998, before sales of class vehicles commenced in the United States.

- 86. Prior to Angell's engine failure in 2003, Saab AB, Saab Cars and GM had actual knowledge that the low friction engine design, crankcase ventilation system together with incorrect oil and maintenance recommendations were causing engine oil sludge and premature class engine failure
- 87. This information was technical in nature and not known by the ordinary consumer or the public including Angell, Reid and proposed class members
- 88 Angell, Reid and proposed class members were ignorant of this technical information through no fault of their own
- 89. Independent repair facilities were not knowledgeable or informed as to the causes of class vehicle engine oil sludge until 2005 when this information began to disseminate. 9
- 90. Although Saab AB, Saab Cars and GM knew defects in class engines and incorrect oil maintenance recommendations in the owner's manuals caused engine oil sludge, these defendants knowingly and actively concealed material information from prospective purchasers and actual purchasers with the intent to deceive purchasers and promote class vehicle sales.

⁹ To date, none of the defendants has disclosed or admitted that design and manufacture defects and improper oil recommendations were responsible for the formation of oil sludge in class vehicles.

- 91 This material information concerned the propensity of class vehicles to accumulate unreasonable amounts of engine oil sludge in normal vehicle operation causing premature engine failure
- 92. Material information fraudulently concealed and/or actively suppressed by Saab AB, Saab Cars and GM includes but is not limited to class vehicle engine defects and incorrect class engine maintenance recommendations concerning engine oil specifications, engine oil type and oil change intervals.
- 93. Material information was fraudulently concealed and/or actively suppressed in order to sell class vehicles to uninformed consumers (including Angell, Reid and proposed class members) premised on affirmations and representations of reliable long-life efficient engines, low vehicle maintenance and inexpensive operating costs.
- 94. Material information was fraudulently concealed and/or actively suppressed in order to protect Saab AB, Saab Car and GM's (and authorized Saab dealers') corporate profits from loss of sales from adverse publicity and warranty repairs.
- 95. In July of 1998, Saab AB and Saab Cars issued Service Information No 210-1991 to authorized dealers discussing engine deposits and reduction of oil service intervals for 9-3 class vehicles together with other vehicles equipped with four cylinder turbocharged engine

- 96 None of the oil sludge specific information contained in Service Information No 210-1991 was incorporated in the class vehicle owner's manual or disclosed to class vehicle purchasers at the time of sale or prior to the special policy letter sent to known class vehicle owners in mid 2005
- 97 Saab AB and Saab Cars issued Technical News Bulletins to authorized Saab dealers in July of 2000 and again in October of 2002 detailing new recommended engine oils (non mineral) for class vehicles.
- Despite knowledge that design and manufacturing defects were causing oil sludge and premature engine failure in class vehicles, Saab AB and Saab Cars attempted to remedy class engine defects by recommending higher quality semi and full synthetic engine oils and reduced oil intervals to lower the incidence of oil sludge related engine failures.
- 99 Although Saab AB, Saab Cars and GM knew that mineral based engine oil (recommended in class vehicle owner's manuals) in conjunction with engine design defects was accelerating the accumulation of oil sludge and causing severe premature engine damage, these defendants did not issue supplemental owner's manual inserts for class vehicles or otherwise notify class vehicle owners that only "Saab High Performance Turbo Oil OW-40

Fully synthetic" or "Saab Turbo Oil 5W-30 Semi-Synthetic" should be used as per the Technical News Bulletin Nbr 00-07-210 100 Issued in July of 2000, Technical News Bulletin Nbr 00-07-210 entitled "Recommended oil grades" announced that- "Synthetic engine oil is now used during assembly (as of April 2000) and is the standard oil in cars leaving the plant." This bulletin "recommended" the use of only semi or full synthetic engine oil for class vehicles and stated that- "By using the oils tested by Saab, results such as the build up of contaminants [oil sludge] are avoided Such contaminants can block the lubricating system and damage engine components " Mineral oils were specifically not recommended for use in class engines in this bulletin 101. A second Technical News Bulletin, Nbr 02-10-210 entitled "Recommended oil grade, replaces TN 00-07-210" was sent to authorized Saab dealers in October of 2002 superseding the July 2000 oil bulletin. This new oil recommendation conspicuously noted that- "All cars leaving the factory are filled with synthetic engine oil" and that Saab AB no longer recommended the use of mineral oil for class engines. The bulletin further stated- "Using recommended oils avoids the tendency to build up residue [oil sludge] inside the engine that can block the lubricating system, increase wear and damage engine components "

- 102. This second bulletin issued additional oil specifications and mandated only the use of full synthetic oil for certain class vehicles including oils satisfying GM-LL standards (the highest quality synthetic oil standard when issued).
- 103. The defendants knew or should have known information contained in the Technical News Bulletins would not be disseminated to individual class vehicle owners and particularly to owners who did not service their vehicles at Saab authorized dealers.
- 104. Technical News Bulletins, Service Information bulletins and Technical Service Bulletins were not available to members of the general public or independent service shops and were only for the use of mechanics and service personnel at authorized Saab dealerships.
- 105. No independent instruction and/or warning was sent to class vehicle owners in the United States concerning the discontinuation of mineral based or semi synthetic engine oil in class vehicles until the special policy letter in mid 2005.
- 106. In mid 2005, Saab Cars contacted known class vehicle owners with a letter to advise that class engines were susceptible to oil sludge formation under certain conditions and stated-

The primary cause of engine oil sludge is premature decomposition of oil due to a number of factors or combination of factors. These factors include: short driving trips of 5 to 10 minutes when the engine does

not warm up sufficiently, driving in stop-and-go traffic, driving in dusty conditions, towing trailers, using low-grade-specification oil not recommended by Saab, or oil changes not meeting the minimum requirements as recommended in the service schedule. When these factors or combination of factors occur, the engine oil thickens making it more difficult to provide adequate engine lubrication. 10

107. The so-called "special policy letter" recommends that mineral based and semi synthetic engine oils (originally recommended in the owner's manual for class vehicles) should no longer be used and that - "Saab recommends using a full synthetic oil and considering if your driving conditions require more frequent maintenance."

108. The special policy letter recommended more frequent class vehicle maintenance.

109 As a result of this letter (and as knowledge of the propensity of class engines to form oil sludge), authorized Saab dealers, independent automobile repair facilities and quick change oil shops reduced the oil change intervals for class vehicles from 10,000 miles to 5,000 miles.

110. The special policy letter supplemental maintenance recommendations issued by Saab AB and Saab Cars quadruples oil maintenance costs for class vehicles by recommending full synthetic oil and more frequent oil changes in order to prevent

¹⁰ The letter ends by reciting that- "Saab stands behind its products and is focused on our traditional values of Safety and Reliability."

formation of oil sludge and for the extended special policy to be valid 11

111 Since the defendants' special policy letter recommended the use of full synthetic engine oil to prevent the formation of engine sludge, Angell, Reid and class members switched from mineral oil to these newly recommended more expensive engine oils.

112. Angell, Reid and class members also reduced the oil change interval to the now recommended 5,000 mile oil change interval instead of the initially recommended 10,000 mile interval

113 Angell, Reid and class members followed the new oil recommendations and oil change intervals in order to prevent the

¹¹ The special policy letter sent to Angell dated May 17, 2005 Angell's reimbursement request are appended to this complaint as Exhibits 1 and 2, respectively. Owner's manuals and warranty booklets for class vehicles do not mandate specific oil types or specifications. Saab manuals and booklets employ the terms "recommend(s)" or "recommended" when discussing class vehicle engine oil. The Saab 9-3 and 9-5 Warranty and Service Record Booklets recommend oil change service at 10,000 mile intervals except under extreme conditions not applicable to Angell, Reid and other class members. The owner's manual for Angell's vehicle states in no terms uncertain-[recommended] oils contain the additives required for the engine to function well We advise against the use of further additives." (emphasis in original) As Saab dealers, independent repair facilities and class vehicle owners became aware of the engine sludge problems, use of mineral and semi synthetic engine oil was discontinued and oil change intervals were shortened to 5,000 miles. The increased cost of an oil change with a full synthetic oil is in excess of \$45 00 at an authorized Saab dealer.

accumulation of oil sludge and to protect their vehicles' engines.

- 114. Angell, Reid and class members followed these recommendations to protect their respective vehicles' engines from oil sludge induced damage beyond the special policy period of eight years.
- 115. The special policy letter recommended increased oil change maintenance costs over the anticipated class vehicle life increases oil maintenance costs in excess of \$500.00 per vehicle.
- The special policy letter fraudulently concealed the real cause of oil sludge ("premature decomposition of the oil") which is caused by engine design and manufacture defects (as more fully set out in ¶195)
- 117. The low friction engine design increases allows a greater amount of combustion by-products to enter the engine crankcase. These combustion by-products are inadequately disposed of by the defective class engine crankcase ventilation system.
- 118. Combustion by-products are toxic to the engine oil and deplete the oil and oil additives resulting in oil sludge. 12

¹² The engine oil is the victim of a defective engine and not the villain causing oil sludge as alleged by Saab AB, Saab Cars and GM.

- 119. Although Saab AB, Saab Cars and GM knew that design engine defects were causing oil sludge and severe premature damage in class engines (particularly with the use of mineral oil), the defendants fraudulently attempted to shift the responsibility and repair costs for oil sludge damage to individual vehicle owners premised on low quality oil, poor maintenance and certain driving conditions as set forth in the special policy letter 120. Saab AB and Saab Cars recommended higher quality full synthetic oil in service publications and the special policy letter and more frequent oil changes because this forestalls but does not eliminate oil sludge accumulation and eventual (and predictable) premature engine failure.
- 121. The only way to remedy premature class engine failures caused by oil sludge is an engine and crankcase ventilation system redesign. 13
- 122. The defendants also affirmatively and actively concealed manifestations of engine oil sludge under provisions of the special policy announced in mid 2005. The special policy letter distributed to class vehicle owners in the United States is

The special policy letter fraudulently claims that—"This special policy covers internally lubricated engine components for defects in material and workmanship" Under this affirmation, the low friction pistons, piston rings and other defective internal engine components should have been replaced in all class engines, which they were not

similar to the letter Saab AB sent out in Europe during January of 2005

- 123. The defendants imposed unreasonable and unconscionable levels of maintenance documentation for warranty repair and/or reimbursement of repairs under the special policy
- 124. Unless the vehicle owner can produce extensive maintenance documentation over the life of the vehicle (including receipts going back as far as eight years), the engine oil sludge repairs are refused under the special policy. 14
- 125. Saab AB, Saab Cars and GM are aware that the vast majority of vehicle owners do not retain receipts or other documentation evidencing class vehicle oil changes and but for the defective engine design and wrong initial oil service recommendations, the class engines would not have failed.
- 126 Saab AB, Saab Cars and GM saddled class vehicle owners with proving that vehicles were properly maintained, rather than admitting that class vehicles are defectively designed and manufactured.

This documentation is often impossible to produce because the original purchaser did not save all the maintenance records for the subsequent purchaser including individuals like plaintiff Reid whose engine turbocharger prematurely failed due to engine oil sludge. Class vehicle purchasers were not aware at the time of purchase that a special policy would be enacted and that oil service documentation was required to participate in the special policy

- 127 The special policy warranty expressly excludes repairs or replacement for the class engine turbocharger and turbocharger components
- Class engine turbocharger failure is a manifestation of moderate to severe levels of engine oil sludge and portends engine failure. Turbochargers should last the life of the engine which is reasonably expected to be in excess of 150,000 miles

 129 The fraudulent conduct of Saab AB, Saab Cars and GM tolls any applicable statutes of limitations since the fraudulent misrepresentations concerning the true cause of engine oil sludge formation in class vehicles was an inherently unknowable fact given the technical nature of the class engine design defects and engine oil tribology 15
- 130. Class vehicle owners do not possess the requisite technical skills in automotive engineering to discern the design and manufacture defects in their vehicles or the requisite technical skills in tribology to surmise the proper engine lubricants and engine oil maintenance intervals for class engines

Other information supporting allegations of fraud and concealment are in the control of the defendants. This information includes but is not limited to class vehicle service bulletins, engineering analyses, root cause analysis, warranty document claims and internal corporate communications. This information will be obtained in discovery from the defendants

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- 131. In March of 2005, Angell learned that design defects in her class engine and initial improper oil recommendations caused oil sludge and resulting engine failure
- 132 M G L. c.260, §12 tolls Angell's statutes of limitations from June of 2003 (the date of her engine failure) until March of 2005 (when she first learned defects in the engine caused her engine to fail and that incorrect oil recommendations hastened her engine's failure)
- 133. Saab AB together with Saab Cars (and GM who approved the letter) made other fraudulent representations to Angell, Reid and class members in the 2005 special policy letter.
- 134. Saab AB, Saab Cars and GM fraudulently represented in the special policy letter that class vehicle owners who submitted requested documentation prior to December 31, 2005 would be reimbursed for oil sludge related engine repairs
- Angell and class members fulfilled all conditions precedent for reimbursement under the special policy prior to the December 31, 2005 special policy document submission deadline.
- 136. Despite full compliance with the provisions of the special policy, Angell, Reid and proposed class members were denied reimbursement without adequate explanation.
- 137. Saab AB, Saab Cars and GM knew or should have known these fraudulent misrepresentations in the special policy letter and

other conduct would induce proposed class members (including Angell) from commencing litigation because class vehicle owners reasonably believed they would be compensated under the special policy for oil sludge damage or have their engines repaired 138. Angell, Reid and other class members relied on these fraudulent misrepresentations in their respective special policy letters and delayed bringing suit against Saab AB, Saab Cars and GM. These defendants fraudulently administered the special policy for class vehicles by their refusal to reimburse Angell, Reid and proposed class members.

- 139. Saab AB, Saab Cars and GM are estopped from asserting that statutes of limitations were running for the duration of time class members relied on the fraudulent representations (both as to the cause of oil sludge and the special policy remedy) in the special policy letter that vehicle owners would receive reimbursement for engine oil sludge repairs.
- 140. Angell relied on the engine oil sludge reimbursement representations in the special policy letter and was not aware that the defendants would fraudulently deny her claim until March of 2006, when Saab Cars declined her request for special policy reimbursement
- 141. Angell appealed Saab Cars' non-reimbursement decision through April of 2006.

- 142 Angell decided to pursue engine replacement reimbursement under the terms of the special policy and not resort to legal action from May of 2005 until April of 2006
- 143. The defendants are equitably estopped from asserting the statutes of limitations were running against Angell's claims from May of 2005 until March of 2006 at minimum (and until April 2006 at maximum)
- 144 Saab AB, Saab Cars and GM had a duty to disclose to owners of class vehicles that there were design and manufacture defects in the engine and that the owner's manual set forth the wrong oil recommendations and oil change intervals.
- 145 This duty arose because these defendants knew that there were defects in the vehicles and manuals that affected vehicle operation and safety while the class vehicle owners were not cognizant of these defects and dangers.
- 146. Saab AB, Saab Cars and GM breached their affirmative duty of disclosure to class vehicle owners (and particularly to owners who inquired as to the cause of engine oil sludge and engine failures).
- 147. Saab AB, Saab Cars and GM had superior and exclusive knowledge of class vehicle design and manufacture defects and

owed class vehicle owners a fiduciary duty to disclose defects including those defects creating an unreasonable risk of harm ¹⁶ 148. Saab AB, Saab Cars and GM breached express and implied warranties and actively and affirmatively misrepresented, fraudulently concealed and suppressed the existence of defects in class engines and accompanying owner's manuals and service booklets.

149. The warranties accompanying the Angell, Reid and all other class vehicles were unconscionable under M.G L c 106, \$2-302 because of the disparity in bargaining power of the parties, lack of meaningful alternatives, disparity in sophistication of the parties, unfair terms in the warranty, absence of effective warranty competition and the fact that class engines failed with substantially fewer miles of operation than competitive vehicles from other manufacturers.

150. Class vehicle warranties are oppressive, unreasonable and unconscionable because of increased unanticipated class engine maintenance costs, engine defects and premature engine failure constitute an unfair contractual surprise for Angell, Reid and proposed class members.

¹⁶ Since unanticipated engine failure (particularly on limited access highways) is a serious safety issue, the defendants had an affirmative duty to disclose the engine defects together with the risks associated with engine oil sludge.

- 151 Given the conduct of Saab AB, Saab Cars and GM and the design defects in class vehicles (that these defendants knew were inherently defective), the durational limitations of the warranties are oppressive, unreasonable and unconscionable because the warranty disclaimers of Angell, Reid and proposed class members were neither knowing nor voluntary
- 152. Angell, Reid and proposed class members had an absence of meaningful choice in the purchase of class vehicles and the contractual terms were unreasonably favorable to Saab AB, Saab Cars and GM. The bargaining position of the defendants for the sale of class vehicles was grossly disproportionate and vastly superior to that of individual vehicle purchasers including Angell, Reid and proposed class members
- 153 Saab AB, Saab Cars and GM included unfair contractual provisions concerning the length and coverage of the express warranty when they knew that class vehicles were inherently defective and dangerous. This conduct renders the vehicle purchase contract so one-sided as to be unconscionable under the circumstances existing at the formation of the vehicle purchase contract
- The durational limitation of the express warranties accompanying the class vehicles are unreasonable and unconscionable since Saab AB, Saab Cars and GM actively

concealed known engine defects and issued incorrect oil specifications and oil service intervals. Angell, Reid and proposed class members had no notice of the defects or ability to detect the defects 17

155. Engines in competitive vehicles manufactured and sold at the time the class vehicle engines were manufactured and sold ordinarily last longer than warranties accompanying class vehicles

156 Saab AB, Saab Cars and GM engaged in unconscionable fraudulent commercial practices including issuance of the special policy letter that attempted to conceal class engine design defects and improperly recommended oil maintenance.

157 The special policy letter fraudulently claims that certain driving conditions, using "low-grade-specification oil not recommended by Saab, or oil changes not meeting the minimum requirements as recommended in the service schedule" caused oil sludge.

158. Saab AB and Saab Cars' special policy letter fraudulently and actively concealed the fact that the low friction engine design, a defective crankcase ventilation system and other

 $^{^{17}}$ The defendants' unconscionable conduct precludes any exclusion of incidental and consequential damages or any other limitation of remedies.

defects in the class engines substantially contributed to and caused engine oil sludge.

- 159. The special policy letter fraudulently and actively concealed the fact that class vehicles were accompanied by an owner's manual and service record booklet that incorporated incorrect engine oil recommendations (including but not limited to the use of mineral oil) and oil change intervals that substantially contributed to and caused engine oil sludge.
- 160. The special policy letter was fraudulent because the oil and oil service "recommendations" contradicted Technical Service Bulletins, Technical News bulletins and Service Information bulletins recommending the use of synthetic oil and shorter duration (5,000 mile) oil change intervals.
- 161. Saab AB, Saab Cars and GM knew that the recommendations in the special policy letter that allowed the continued use of improper mineral and/or semi synthetic engine oils and 10,000 mile oil change intervals were destructive to class engines and contradicted their internal service publications
- 162. Saab AB, Saab Cars and GM calculated that specifically allowing the continued use of improper oil recommendations would further they aims of concealing class engine defects.
- 163 Saab AB, Saab Cars (and successor Saab Holdings) and GM are engaged in a continuing fraud concerning the underlying and true

cause of oil sludge in class engines which are defective engines.

- 164. Saab AB, Saab Cars and GM knew in July of 1998 (and issued written advisories to authorized Saab dealers) that more frequent oil changes would prevent the formation of oil sludge in class engines
- 165. These defendants knew in July of 1998 (and issued written advisories to authorized Saab dealers) that oil sludge was occurring in class engines and that the only way to monitor this condition was an inspection procedure that included partial engine disassembly.
- 166 The defendants failed to adequately test class vehicles for formation of engine oil sludge using different grades of oil and gasoline in an appropriate environment.
- 167. Reid maintained her class vehicle in conformity with the owner's manual and service booklet. In December of 2005, the turbocharger on Reid's vehicle prematurely failed due to engine oil sludge.
- 168. Reid applied for reimbursement under the special policy and submitted the appropriate forms within the December 31, 2005 deadline Reid's request for special policy reimbursement was denied.

- 169 Saab AB, Saab Cars and GM knew that class engine turbochargers failed at an abnormally premature mileage because of oil sludge.
- 170. Saab AB, Saab Cars and GM concealed from Reid and proposed class members the fact that turbocharger failure was caused by engine design defects and that the owner's manual and service booklet incorporated incorrect engine oil recommendations and oil change intervals.
- 171. Reid and proposed class members incurred substantial expense in repairing and/or replacing class engine turbochargers damaged by engine oil sludge.
- 172 Angell, Reid and proposed class members lost the use of their class vehicles and incurred substantial inconvenience and expense in obtaining alternative transportation because of oil sludge related vehicle repairs
- 173 Repair costs for class engine failures caused by oil sludge range between \$2,800.000 and \$10,000 00, depending on the extent of the damage. Some class engines damaged by oil sludge are not repairable.
- 174. Even if class engines do not fail, class vehicle owners have sustained an ascertainable loss that includes increased maintenance costs and substantially reduced engine performance caused by engine oil sludge. This translates into less net

horsepower output, increased fuel consumption and decreased mileage.

175. Individuals who own or have owned class vehicles sustained diminution of the resale value of their class vehicles since knowledge of oil sludge problems with the class engine became public information

176. Saab AB, GM, Saab Cars and Saab Holdings conspired to conceal and suppress information concerning class vehicle defects in order to protect corporate profits and goodwill, sell class vehicles and deprive class vehicle owners of preventative engine repairs under warranty and/or pursue engine repair reimbursement outlined in the special policy. 18

177. If Angell, Reid and proposed class members had been informed of the defects in the class vehicles, they would not have purchased their respective class vehicles or would have paid substantially less. 19

Preventive repairs would include engine disassembly and oil sludge and cleaning of engine components set forth in Technical Service Bulletin 210-2554 ed 4 and crankcase ventilation system upgrades. Technical Service Bulletin No 210-2554 ed 4 entitled "Noise from the timing chain and oil sludge in the engine" is attached as Exhibit 3

¹⁹ Given the vast disparity in expertise, including knowledge of automotive design, manufacture and testing processes, Angell and proposed class members had to rely on the defendants' representations and warranties concerning the class vehicles

COUNT I

BREACH OF CONTRACT BY THE DEFENDANTS RESULTING IN FINANCIAL HARM

- 178. Angell, Reid and proposed class members incorporate by reference all allegations in the above preceding paragraphs as if set forth fully in this count.
- 179. When class vehicles were sold and/or leased to Angell, Reid and proposed class members, the original maintenance recommendations for the vehicles were a material part of the basis of the bargain included in the contract for the sale of class vehicles.
- 180 Angell, Reid and class members had valid and enforceable contracts with the defendants concerning the purchase of their class vehicles.
- 181. Angell, Reid and proposed class members complied with all contractual obligations.
- 182. The defendants unilaterally modified and knowingly breached the contract by specifying new recommended maintenance requirements set forth in the 2005 special policy letter.
- 183. The defendants unilaterally imposed new class vehicle maintenance requirements that breached the terms of the original contracts without assent from or consideration to class vehicle owners
- 184 The defendants received timely and adequate notice of the breach of contract from Angell, Reid and proposed class members.

- 185 The intentional breach of contract by the defendants excuses any notice requirements from class vehicle owners including Angell and Reid
- 186 The new oil maintenance terms recommended the use of more expensive oils and more frequent oil changes that quadrupled oil maintenance costs for class vehicles
- 187 The defendants were obligated to conform to the terms the original maintenance requirements for class vehicles or compensate class vehicle owners for increased maintenance costs.

Wherefore, Angell, Reid and proposed class members demand judgment against defendants including damages, interest, costs and attorneys' fees

COUNT II

BREACH OF M G.L c 106, §2-314 · IMPLIED WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY BY THE DEFENDANTS RESULTING IN FINANCIAL HARM

- 188. Angell, Reid and proposed class members incorporate by reference all allegations in the above preceding paragraphs as if set forth fully in this count.
- The defendants impliedly warranted to the public, owners and lessees of class vehicles that class vehicles were merchantable and fit for the ordinary purposes for which passenger vehicles are used.
- 190 The defendants are merchants with respect to passenger motor vehicles

- 191. Angell, Reid and proposed class members purchased the class vehicles for non-commercial purposes
- 192. As manufacturers of consumer goods, the defendants are precluded from excluding or modifying an implied warranty of merchantability or limiting a consumer's remedies for breach of this warranty
- 193. Class vehicles were not of merchantable quality and were unfit for the ordinary purposes for which passenger vehicles are used. The defendants received adequate notice of their breach of the implied warranty of merchantability.
- 194 The defendants breached their implied warranties in that class vehicles were defective with respect to engine design and manufacture.
- 195. Engines in class vehicles are predisposed to the formation of harmful engine oil sludge and other deposits because one or more of the following conditions existed at the time these vehicles were manufactured. (1) The respective class vehicle's owner's manual and accompanying literature set forth the wrong engine oil maintenance recommendations including oil type, oil viscosity, API specifications and/or engine oil change interval, (2) The class engines have insufficient engine oil sump capacity; (3) The class engines have a defectively designed oil

pump, (4) The class engines have an inadequate engine oil

- cooler; (5) The class engines have a defective crankcase ventilation system; (6) The class vehicles have insufficient heat shielding between the catalytic converter and engine oil sump; and/or (7) The class engines produce excessive combustion blow-by gases
- 196 These defects render the class vehicles unfit for providing transportation and unfit to drive at the time the vehicles were delivered since total unanticipated engine failure occurs which also creates an unreasonably risk of personal injury.
- 197 Class vehicles are not reliable and owners of these vehicles have lost confidence in the ability of class vehicles to perform the function of safe reliable transportation.
- 198 Even though Angell, Reid and proposed class members complied with engine maintenance recommendations for their respective class vehicles, their respective vehicles were damaged by engine oil sludge.²⁰
- 199. Angell, Reid and proposed class members reasonably relied upon the expertise, skill, judgment and knowledge of the defendants and upon their implied warranty that class vehicles were of merchantable quality and fit for their intended use.

 $^{^{20}}$ Even if recommended engine oil maintenance for class engines is meticulously followed, oil sludge and resulting engine damage occurs.

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200. Angell, Reid and proposed class members relied on implied warranties of merchantability made by the defendants concerning the class vehicles and sustained financial injury resulting from the breach of those warranties by the defendants

201. Angell, Reid and proposed class members had a legitimate expectation that the class vehicles would travel well in excess of 150,000 miles before requiring any major engine repairs ²¹ 202 Angell, Reid and proposed class members could not have reasonably discovered the defective condition of the class vehicles at the time of purchase

203. The defendants' breach of implied warranties of merchantability was the direct and proximate cause of financial harm to Angell, Reid and the proposed class members.

Wherefore, Angell, Reid and proposed class members demand gudgment against defendants including damages, interest, costs and attorneys' fees

COUNT III

BREACH OF M.G L. c. 106, §2-313: BREACH OF EXPRESS WARRANTY BY THE DEFENDANTS RESULTING IN FINANCIAL HARM

204 Angell, Reid and proposed class members incorporate by reference all allegations in the above preceding paragraphs as if set forth fully in this count.

 $^{^{21}}$ The service booklet accompanying the class vehicles has record forms for oil services performed at 150,000 miles.

- 205. The defendants expressly warranted to the public including Angell, Reid and proposed class members, that class vehicles were merchantable and fit for the ordinary purposes for which passenger vehicles are used.
- 206. The defendants are merchants with respect to passenger vehicles.
- 207. The defendants extensively advertised that class vehicles were designed by aeronautical engineers and otherwise extolled the quality and virtues of class vehicles including superior design and manufacture, safety, durability and reliability
- 208 The defendants fraudulently represented that the engines in class vehicles were of a particular standard or quality when they in fact were not.
- 209. The defendants' representations were made in newspapers, magazines and television advertising viewed by Angell, Reid and proposed class members.
- 210 The defendants breached their express warranties in that class vehicles were defective with respect to engine design and manufacture. The defendants received adequate notice of their breach of their express warranties including merchantability
- 211 Engines in class vehicles are predisposed to formation of harmful engine oil sludge and other deposits because one or more of the following conditions existed at the time these vehicles

were manufactured Engines in class vehicles are predisposed to the formation of harmful engine oil sludge and other deposits because one or more of the following conditions existed at the time these vehicles were manufactured. (1) The respective class vehicle's owner's manual and accompanying literature set forth the wrong engine oil maintenance recommendations including oil type, oil viscosity, API specifications and/or engine oil change interval; (2) The class engines have insufficient engine oil sump capacity, (3) The class engines have a defectively designed oil pump, (4) The class engines have an inadequate engine oil cooler, (5) The class engines have a defective crankcase ventilation system; (6) The class vehicles have insufficient heat shielding between the catalytic converter and engine oil sump; and/or (7) The class engines produce excessive combustion blow-by gases

- 212. These defects render the class vehicles unfit for providing transportation and unfit to drive at the time the vehicles were delivered since total unanticipated engine failure occurs which also creates an unreasonably risk of personal injury
- 213 Class vehicles are not reliable and owners of these vehicles have lost confidence in the ability of class vehicles to perform the function of safe reliable transportation

- 214 Even though Angell, Reid and proposed class members complied with engine maintenance recommendations for their respective class vehicles, their respective vehicles were damaged by engine oil sludge
- 215. Angell's car first manifested engine oil sludge related damage within the express warranty period when the turbocharger failed at 49,989 miles in October 2002. The authorized Saab dealer replaced the turbocharger, cleaned out the oil trap and performed a crankcase ventilation system upgrade.²²
- 216 The authorized Saab dealer failed to inspect the Angell engine at that for engine oil sludge because the Saab AB, Saab Cars and GM withheld information concerning class engine oil sludge formation from its authorized dealers and class vehicle owners until 2005.
- 217. Angell's vehicle experienced engine failure in June of 2003.
- 218. Angell, Reid and proposed class members relied on express warranties made by the defendants concerning the class vehicles

²² At least five major modifications were performed to crankcase ventilation systems of class engines between late 1999 and 2006 as set forth in Technical Service Bulletins issued by Saab Cars. At least three different modifications were performed to the class engine oil pumps as indicted by different part designations

and sustained financial injury resulting from the breach of those warranties by the defendants 23

- 219. Angell, Reid and proposed class members could not have reasonably discovered the defective condition of the class vehicles.
- 220 The defendants' breach of their express warranties (including the extended express warranty announced in the special policy letter in mid 2005) was the direct and proximate cause of cause of financial harm to Angell, Reid and the proposed class members

Wherefore, Angell, Reid and proposed class members demand judgment against defendants including damages, interest, costs and attorneys' fees

COUNT IV

BREACH OF EXPRESS WARRANTY TO REPAIR AND/OR EXPRESS SERVICE CONTRACT TO REPAIR BY THE DEFENDANTS RESULTING IN FINANCIAL HARM

- 221. Angell, Reid and proposed class members incorporate by reference all allegations in the above preceding paragraphs as if set forth fully in this count
- 222. Angell, Reid and class members requested reimbursement for engine repair and/or engine replacement expenses as set forth in Saab AB's and Saab Car's special policy letter

Angell, Reid and proposed class members also relied on the express warranties set forth in the special policy letter sent to class vehicle owners in 2005 which was dishonored by the defendants

- 223. The special policy as delineated in the correspondence from Saab Cars to Angell (dated May 17, 2005) and other class members is an express warranty to repair and/or express contract to repair separate and distinct from warranties that initially accompanied the class vehicle.
- 224. Angell, Reid and proposed class members completed the requisite forms, supplied the requested documentation and returned the materials prior to the December 31, 2005 deadline.
- 225. Requests of Angell, Reid and class members for reimbursement were declined without sufficient explanation on multiple occasions despite full compliance by Angell, Reid and proposed class members with the special policy terms including presentation of extensive maintenance records.
- 226. The defendants breached the terms of the special policy and engaged in unconscionable commercial practices
- 227. The defendants received due notice from Angell, Reid and proposed class members that the defendants breached their express warranty to repair and/or express contract to repair as set forth in correspondence sent to class vehicle owners in May of 2005.
- 228. The defendants' breach of their express warranty to repair and/or express contract to repair was the direct and proximate

cause of financial harm to Angell, Reid and proposed class members

Wherefore, Angell, Reid and proposed class members demand judgment against defendants including damages, interest, costs and attorneys' fees.

COUNT V

VIOLATION OF M.G L c.93A UNFAIR AND DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICES

- 229 Angell, Reid and proposed class members incorporate by reference all allegations in the above preceding paragraphs as if set forth fully in this count.
- 230 The defendants are persons within the context of M G L c 93A, \$1.
- 231 Saab AB, Saab Cars and GM fraudulently, intentionally, negligently, and/or recklessly misrepresented to Angell, Reid and proposed class members the required maintenance and/or operating costs of the class vehicles with respect to engine oil and oil change intervals.
- 232. Saab AB, Saab Cars and GM fraudulently, intentionally, negligently and/or recklessly misrepresented to Angell, Reid and proposed class members the characteristics of class vehicles with respect to engine design and manufacture.
- 233. Saab AB, Saab Cars and GM fraudulently, intentionally, negligently and/or recklessly concealed from Angell, Reid and proposed class members the defects in the class engines causing

engine oil sludge even though these defendants knew or should have known of oil sludge problems shortly after production of the class vehicle commenced.

- 234. Saab AB, Saab Cars and GM had actual knowledge that oil sludge was causing extensive irreversible premature wear in class engines shortly after production of the class vehicle commenced.
- 235 Saab AB, Saab Cars and GM actively suppressed the fact that class engines were failing because of engine oil sludge caused by engine design and manufacture defects, incorrect oil and oil service interval recommendations
- 236 Saab AB, Saab Cars and GM secretly repaired some class vehicle engines to prevent dissemination of class engine defects
- 237. Saab AB, Saab Cars and GM intended or should have known that Angell, Reid and proposed class members would rely upon misrepresented characteristics of class vehicles with respect to engine design and manufacture and information in the owner's manuals and service booklets for class vehicles that incorporated incorrect engine oil recommendations and oil change intervals.
- 238. Angell, Reid and proposed class members complied with maintenance recommendations for their respective class vehicles.

- 239 Although Saab AB, Saab Cars and GM knew defects in class engines and misinformation in the owner's manuals and service booklets were causing engine oil sludge, these defendants attempted to shift the responsibility and cost for oil sludge repairs to individual vehicle owners.
- 240. One scheme included blaming engine oil sludge formation on the class vehicle owner for poor or improper maintenance or use of low quality oil.
- 241. Another scheme involves the special policy announced in 2005 by Saab AB and Saab Cars which fraudulently attempted to conceal the true cause of class engine failures from oil sludge and not remedy existing oil sludge accumulations by disassembling, cleaning and re-assembling the engine.
- 242 Under the special policy, Saab AB and Saab Cars refuse to inspect (or pay for an inspection) for engine oil sludge unless there are "abnormal noises from the engine and or the oil pressure warning light is illuminated" ²⁴
- 243. Rather than conduct an open and fair inspection and repair procedure for all class vehicles, Saab AB, Saab Cars and GM employed the special policy to inspect and repair only those vehicles at the precipice of total engine failure.

The letter announcing the special policy recites that "Saab dealers will **not** inspect vehicles if either of the conditions noted above [abnormal noises/low oil pressure warning light illuminated] are not present." (emphasis in original).

- 244. Class vehicles with light or moderate oil sludge damage are excluded from special policy inspection and/or repair even though engine performance is substantially reduced by oil sludge.
- 245. The "special policy" does not compensate class vehicle owners for increased oil maintenance costs, substantially diminished useful engine life, markedly reduced engine performance or diminution of vehicle resale value caused by the specter of engine damage resulting from oil sludge.
- When abnormal engine noises and/or the low oil pressure warning light is illuminated, the class engine has already sustained severe engine damage. Unless the vehicle owner can produce extensive maintenance documentation over the life of the vehicle (going back as far as eight years), engine oil sludge inspection and repairs are refused under the special policy.
- 247 If Saab AB, Saab Cars and GM had not concealed engine oil sludge formation from Angell at the time her vehicle was manifesting oil sludge symptoms within the express warranty period in 2002, the engine in her vehicle would have repaired without cost to Angell under the original warranty.
- 248. The defendants fraudulently concealed unmistakable manifestations of oil sludge accumulations within the express warranty periods and under the special policy without

- inspecting, repairing or replacing damaged internal class engine components $^{25}\,$
- 249 Angell, Reid and proposed class members complied with all terms of the special policy.
- 250. Saab AB, Saab Cars and GM refused reimbursement to Angell, Reid and proposed class members and thereby breached the terms of the special policy
- 251. The special policy was improperly and fraudulently applied to Angell, Reid and class members
- 252. The defendants imposed unreasonable and unconscionable levels of maintenance documentation for warranty repair of class engines damaged by oil sludge under the original warranty and special policy.
- 253 The defendants are aware of recent statistical studies that indicate 80 percent of vehicle owners cannot fully document vehicle maintenance histories because the original and/or subsequent vehicle owner does not retain maintenance records and receipts
- 254. Even if only one oil change cannot be documented, there is no special policy reimbursement or repair.

²⁵ Class engine oil sludge manifestations include turbocharger failure, crankcase ventilation system failure and oil leaks. The defendants initiated multiple modifications to the engine oil pump and at least five upgrades of the crankcase ventilation system in an attempt to remedy engine oil sludge.

- 255. It is unreasonable and unconscionable to expect class vehicle owners to retain all receipts for all oil changes going back as much as eight years in order to comply with the provisions of the special policy.
- 256 The special policy did not require the submission of documents for oil changes performed by individual vehicle owners including Angell's husband ²⁶
- 257. Angell was not able to document with receipts oil purchased by her husband when he changed the oil in her vehicle four years before she received the special policy letter.
- 258. Angell's oil maintenance documentation was sufficient for purposes of warranty repairs but deemed inadequate for purposes of the special policy.²⁷
- 259. Angell, Reid and class members were not informed why their requests for reimbursement of class engine repair expenses were rejected when all condition precedent were satisfied

The special policy provisions with respect to documentation of class vehicle oil changes recites: "If the oil and filter changes were completed by a service facility other than a Saab dealer, properly documented business receipts must be available and verifiable."

When Angell's turbocharger was replaced under warranty in October of 2002, oil service performed by her husband was accepted as proof of proper maintenance. When Angell submitted documentation for engine reimbursement under the special policy, oil maintenance performed by her husband was apparently not credited and reimbursement under the special policy was denied.

- 260. Also not covered under the special policy are expensive class engine catalytic converters, engine turbochargers, crankcase ventilation systems and other components prematurely failing because of the defective engine design and incorrect oil "recommendations"
- 261 The special policy recommends the use of full synthetic engine oil for class vehicles while Saab AB and Saab Cars Technical Service Bulletins mandate the use of full synthetic oil as a "requirement" for engine repairs performed under the special policy "and for the extended special policy to be valid"
- 262. Technical Service Bulletin 210-2554 entitled "Noise from the timing chain and oil sludge in the engine" (dated April 2005, one month before the special policy letter of May 2005) mandates that after flushing the engine out with semi synthetic oil that the mechanic should "Refill [the class engine] with FULL-SYNTHETIC oil" (emphasis in original). The bulletin continues by stating- "When filling the oil for the second time, and for the extended policy to be valid, a full synthetic long-life oil in accordance with Saab Automobile's requirements specifications is strongly recommended. This requirement also applies for engines where the previous recommendation was mineral or synthetic based oil"

- 263. Sixteen months after the special policy letter was sent to Angell, this requirement was again repeated in Technical Service Bulletin 210-2554 ed 4 also entitled "Noise from the timing chain and oil sludge in the engine" (dated October 2006) See Exhibit 3 at p. 5.
- The defendants were issuing one set of mandatory requirements to employees of Saab authorized dealers who repaired engines under warranty and were paid by Saab Cars and much less forceful instructions to class vehicle owners in order to conceal class engine defects.
- 265. This special policy fraudulently attempts to shift the repair costs for defective class engines (including the \$1,500.00 replacement cost for the catalytic converters and expensive replacement or repairs to the turbocharger, etc.) to vehicle owners and/or to deter owners from initiating engine warranty claims because of unreasonable maintenance documentation and fraudulently stating the true cause of engine oil sludge.
- 266 Saab AB, Saab Cars and GM violated 940 Mass. Code Regs.

 3.16 and c.93A by failing to inform class vehicle purchasers
 that the class vehicles were defectively designed and

manufactured and were accompanied by incorrect oil recommendations and oil change intervals. 28

- 267 The defendants committed unfair and deceptive business trade act practices as set forth in all preceding counts and as described in the preceding paragraphs in this count.
- 268 As a proximate and direct result of the defendants' unfair and deceptive business trade practices, Angell, Reid and proposed class members purchased class vehicles
- Angell, Reid and proposed class members experienced oil sludge induced damage to their engines, diminution of vehicle resale value, increased maintenance costs and incurred other monetary damages
- 270. On April 28, 2008, M.G.L c.93A demand letters were sent to Saab Cars General Manager Steve Shannon and GM President Rick Wagoner via certified mail, return receipt requested.
- 271. Counsel for Angell, Reid and proposed class members did not receive any written response from Saab Cars or GM to the c 93A

 $^{^{28}}$ This regulation recites that "an act or practice is a violation of M.G.L. c $\,$ 93A, §2 if $^{\circ}$

⁽¹⁾ It is oppressive or otherwise unconscionable in any respect; or

⁽²⁾ Any person or other legal entity subject to this act fails to disclose to a buyer or prospective buyer any fact, the disclosure of which may have influenced the buyer or prospective buyer not to enter into the transaction;"

demand letters within thirty days of receipt of the letters by Saab Cars, Saab Holding or GM.

- 272. When GM finally responded to the c. 93A demand letters via facsimile on June 6, 2008, GM declined any compensation or remedial measures requested in the demand letter.
- 273 Saab Cars and Saab Holdings failed to respond to Angell's c. 93A demand letter.

Wherefore, Angell, Reid and proposed class members demand judgment against Saab AB, Saab Cars, Saab Holdings and GM together with multiple damages, interest, costs and attorneys' fees

COUNT VI UNJUST ENRICHMENT / RESTITUTION

- 274. Angell, Reid and proposed class members incorporate by reference all allegations in the above preceding paragraphs as if set forth fully in this count
- 275 Angell, Reid and proposed class members do not have an adequate remedy at law
- 276 Angell, Reid and proposed class members conferred a monetary benefit on the defendants, but for the defendants' misrepresentations, active acts of concealment and other

fraudulent conduct Angell, Reid and the proposed class members would not have conferred.²⁹

- 277 The defendants obtained financial gain by selling class vehicles and replacement parts for class engines that abnormally and prematurely failed due to engine oil sludge.
- 278. The defendants obtained further financial gain from selling oil that is more expensive, parts and labor for the increased class engine oil services
- 279. Angell, Reid and proposed class members sustained monetary damages.
- Allowing the defendants to retain their unjust monetary enrichment from their wrongful and unlawful acts would violate the fundamental principles of justice and would be otherwise inequitable.

Wherefore Angell, Reid and proposed class members request that the defendants disgorge their profits from their wrongful and unlawful conduct and that the court establish a constructive trust funded by the benefits conferred upon the defendants. Angell, Reid and proposed class members should be designated beneficiaries of the trust and obtain restitution for their out of pocket expenses caused by the defendants' conduct.

This monetary benefit includes purchasing replacement parts for class engines and paying for repairs that should have been covered under warranty.

RELIEF REQUESTED

Wherefore, Angell, Reid and proposed class members request.

- a. A class certification order pursuant to Fed. R Civ P. 23(c) designating as class members those entitles defined in ¶41 with any modifications to the class or sub-classes as required for the efficient and equitable administration of justice in this proceeding,
- b. An Order appointing Angell and Reid as representatives of the class and designating Thomas P Sobran as counsel for the class pursuant to Fed R. Civ P 23(g),
- c Judgment for Angell, Reid and class members against the defendants on all issues and counts,
- d Damages for Angell, Reid and class members including but not limited to multiple damages together with prejudgment interest, costs and attorneys' fees;
- e Injunctive relief compelling the defendants to perform the following procedures without monetary charge to all class vehicles. (1) Inspect the engine's oil pump and oil pump pickup screen for obstructions and wear and replace as necessary; (2) Inspect and replace as necessary the engine crankshaft, cam and balance shafts, chains, chain tensioner systems and all bearings and bearing surfaces, (3) Clean the engine block interior to remove oil sludge and other

- deposits; and, (4) Inspect and replace where necessary the engine turbocharger and feed and return lines, oil cooler, oil filter holder, catalytic converter, crankcase ventilation components and related vacuum components for obstructions and wear and replace as necessary.
- f Restitution for all engine repairs incurred by Angell, Reid and class members resulting from the defectively designed and manufactured class engines and incorrect engine oil recommendations and oil change intervals as set forth in the class vehicles' owner's manuals including compensation for turbocharger and catalytic converter replacement costs;
- g. Restitution for all increased past, present and future maintenance costs incurred by the Angell, Reid and proposed class members resulting from the defendants' special policy class vehicle engine oil recommendations and oil change intervals,
- h. Disgorgement of the defendants' revenue from their wrongful and unlawful conduct and the establishment of a constructive trust funded by the benefits conferred upon the defendants. Angell, Reid and class members should be designated beneficiaries of the trust and obtain restitution for their out of pocket expenses caused by the defendants' conduct,

- 1. A permanent injunction enjoining the defendants from denying Angell's, Reid's and class members' class vehicle oil sludge damage claims for an eight year period commencing from the initial date of sale or lease regardless whether complete maintenance records are available, and,
- J Any other relief deemed necessary or appropriate by the court.

REQUEST FOR JURY TRIAL

Angell, Reid and proposed class members request trial by jury on all issues and counts.

Susan B Angell and Prudence Reid, By their attorney, on behalf of themselves and proposed class members,

/s/ Thomas P Sobran
Thomas P. Sobran, P C
7 Evergreen Lane
Hingham, MA 02043
(781) 741-6075
BBO #471810

Certificate of Service

I certify that a copy of the above document entitled SECOND AMENDED CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT AND REQUEST FOR JURY TRIAL was docketed on 2/6/2009 through the Electronic Case Filing system to all identified participants on the Notice of Electronic Filing

/s/ Thomas P. Sobran
Thomas P Sobran

THOMAS P SOBRAN, PC COUNSELLOR AT LAW 7 EVERGREEN LANE

HINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS 02043

TELEPHONE (781) 741-6075 FACSIMILE (781) 741-6074 EMAIL tsobran@sobranlaw.com

July 15, 2009

Bankruptcy Clerk U S. Bankruptcy Court SDNY One Bowling Green New York, NY 10004

Re. In Re Motors Liquidation Company, Southern District of New York Bankruptcy Court Case No 09-50026

Dear Sir or Madam.

Enclosed please find proof of claim form for the abovereferenced proceeding together with a stamped self-address return envelope. Please return acknowledgement of receipt of the proof of claim in the return envelope

Very truly yours

Thomas P Sobran

TPS/awm Enclosures

-, .

Exhibit B

Proof of Claim No. 18916

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE SOUTH	IERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK	PROOF OF CLAIM
Name of Debtor (Check Only One) RMotors Liquidation Company (f/k/a General Motors Corporation) MLCS, LLC (f/k/a Saturn, LLC)	Case No 09-50026 (REG) 09-50027 (REG)	Your Claim is Scheduled As Follows.
□MLCS Distribution Corporation (t/k/a Saturn Distribution Corporation □MLC of Hailem, Inc (t/k/a Chevrolet-Saturn of Harlem, Inc)	09-13558 (REG)	Motors Liquidation Company
NOTE. This form should not be used to make a claim for an administrative expense arising a for purpoves of asserting a claim under 11 USC § 503(b)(9) (see Item # 5). All other reques filed pursuant to 11 USC § 503	ster the commencement of the case, but may be used its for payment of an administrative expense should he	Unsecured Unknown Contingent / Unliquidated / Disputed
Name of Creditor (the person or other entity to whom the debtor owes money or property) ANGELL, SUSAN B		GITY
Name and address where notices should be sent ANGELL, SUSAN B SOBRAN, THOMAS P 7 EVERGREEN LN HINGHAM MA 02043-1047	Check this box to indicate that this claim amends a pieviously filed claim Court Claim Number	NOV 2 2009 IN
Telephone number 781 141 6075 Email Address TSOBRANI @ SobnanLAW COM	Filed on	If an amount is identified above you have a claim scheduled by one of the Debtors as shown (This scheduled amount of your claim may be an amendment to a previously scheduled amount.) If you
Name and address where payment should be sent (if different from above) FILED - 18916 MOTORS LIQUIDATION COMPANY F/K/A GENERAL MOTORS CORP SDNY # 09-50026 (REG) Telephone number	Check this box if you are aware that anyone else has filed a proof of claim relating to your claim. Attach copy of statement giving particulars. Check this box if you are the debtor or trustee in this case.	agree with the amount and priority of your claim as scheduled by the Debtor ind you have no other claim against the Debtor you do not need to file this proof of claim form LNCLP! AS FOLLOWS. If the amount shown is listed as DISPUTED UNEQUIDATED or CONTINGENT, a proof of claim MUSE he filed in order to receive any distribution in respect of your claim. If you have already filed a proof of claim in accordance with the attached instructions, you need not file again.
I Amount of Claim as of Date Case Filed, June 1, 2009 If all or part of your claim is secured, complete item 4 below, however, if all of your claim is your claim is entitled to priority, complete item 5. If all or part of your claim is asserted pursua. Check this box if claim includes interest or other charges in addition to the part of t	ant to 11 USC & 503(b)(9), complete item 5	5 Amount of Claim Entitled to Priority under 11 U.S.C. § 507(a) If any portion of your claim tails in one of the following categories, check the box and state the amount Specify the priority of the claim Domestic support obligations under 11 U.S.C. § 507(a)(1)(A) or (a)(1)(B)
3a Debtor may have scheduled account as (See instruction #3a on reverse side.) 4 Secured Claim (See instruction #4 on reverse side.) Check the appropriate box if your claim is secured by a hen on property or a intermation Nature of property or right of setoff. Real Estate. Motor Vehic Describe. Value of Property \$ Annual Interest Rate. %	ght of setoff and provide the requested	Wages, salaries, or commissions (up to \$10,950*) earned within 180 days before filing of the bankruptcy petition or cessation of the debtor's business, whichever is carlier. If U S C ◊ 507(a)(4) Contributions to an employee benefit plan - 11 U S C ◊ 507(a)(5) Up to \$2,425* of deposits toward purchase, lease, or rental of property
Amount of arrearage and other charges as of time case filed included in se Basis for perfection	, <u>, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , </u>	or services for personal, family, or household use – 11 U S C \$ 507(a)(7) I axes or penaltics owed to governmental units = 11 U S C \$ 507(a)(8)
6 Credits The amount of all payments on this claim has been credited for the p 7 Documents Attach reducted copies of any documents that support the claim orders, invoices, itemized statements or running accounts, contracts, judgments, in You may also attach a summary Attach reducted copies of documents providing a security interest. You may also attach a summary. (See instruction 7 and definite DO NOT SEND ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS ATTACHED DOCUMENTS MAY SCANNING. If the documents are not available, please explain in an attachment.	□ Value of goods received by the Debtor within 20 days before the date of commencement of the case - 11 USC § 503(b)(9) (§ 507(a)(2)) □ Other Specify applicable paragraph of 11 USC § 507(a)(_) Amount entitled to priority **Amounts are subject to adjustment on 4/1/10 and every 3 years thereafter with respect to cases commenced on or after the date of adjustment	
Date Signature The person filing this claim must sign it Sign	and print name and title, if any, of the creditor of and telephone number if different from the notice	FOR COURT USF ONLY

THOMAS P. SOBRAN, P.C.
COUNSELLOR AT LAW
7 EVERGREEN LANE
HINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS 02043

TELEPHONE (781) 741-6075
FACSIMILE (781) 741-6074
EMAIL tsobran@sobranlaw.com

October 28, 2009

The Garden City Group, Inc.

Attn: Motors Liquidation Company Claims Processing

P.O. Box 9386 Dublin, OH 43017

Re: In Re Motors Liquidation Company, Southern District of New York Bankruptcy Court Case No. 09-50026

Dear Sir or Madam:

Enclosed please find the proof of claims of Susan B. Angell, Prudence Reid and Joanne Adams in the above-referenced proceeding together with a stamped self-address return envelope. Please return acknowledgement of receipt of the proof of claims in the return envelope.

Very truly yours

Thomas P. Sobrar

TPS/awm Enclosures

CONTINGENT FEE AGREEMENT (Executed in Duplicate)

Sue Angell residing at 109 Lunenburg Road, West Townsend, Massachusetts 01474 (hereinafter "Client") retains THOMAS P SOBRAN, P C , 7 Evergreen Lane, Hingham, Massachusetts 02043, (hereinafter "Attorney") to perform the legal services mentioned in Paragraph 1 below The Attorney agrees to perform the services faithfully and with due diligence.

- 1 The claim, controversy and other matters with reference to which the services are to be performed are Resolution of her 2000 Saab 9-3 engine oil sludge repair costs
- 2 The contingency upon which compensation is to be paid is the collection of moneys following settlement in favor of the Client or verdict in favor of the Client on the claim, controversy and other matters set forth in Paragraph 1 above
- 3 The Client is not liable to pay compensation otherwise than from amounts collected for her by the Attorney except as follows. Not applicable, the only compensation is set forth in $\P 4$
- 4 Reasonable compensation on the foregoing contingency is to be paid by resolution of the proposed class action in an amount to be approved by the court or at trial.
- 5 If the Attorney is discharged by the Client prior to the resolution of the claim, controversy and other matters referenced in paragraph 1, the Attorney shall be entitled to compensation for expenses and disbursements together with the fair value of services rendered to the Client prior to the discharge of the Attorney at the time the claim, controversy and other matters are concluded.

This agreement and its performance are subject to Rule 3 05 of the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts

THIS CONTINGENT FEE AGREEMENT HAS BEEN READ BY THE CLIENT BEFORE SIGNING AND RECEIPT OF A COPY OF THE AGREEMENT IS ACKNOWLEDGED

Witness to Client signature

Witness to Attorney signature

Signature of Attorney

Dated 4/ /2008

			INVOICE #	TE	RMS		
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SERIAL #							
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Susan Angell 109 Lunenbur	σ Road	DEL DATE	DEALER	WRIT	TEN BY		
Townsend, M.					/G		
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	1)Engine noisy, (car towed in). 1)Start-up engine, engine noisy, disconnect battery, jack-up car, drain oil, loosen and remove front exhaust pipe, both front lower under body panels, engine flywheel cover, loosen right side sub-frame, loosen and remove engine oil pan assembly, found engine bearing material in oil pan, loosen and check engine oil pick-up screen, found engine oil pick-up screen, founder with sludge, loosen and remove number four engine main bearing and rod bearing caps to check for bearing wear, found number four engine rod bearing worn, replacement engine needed, add engine hoist, remove battery and charge, drain engine coolant, loosen and remove, engine air filter housing assembly, engine air liter housing assembly, britter assembly air district a session of the properties and coolant hoses, turbo outlet pipe, engine and transmission mounts, lower engine/fransmission assembly and rise car, remove right side axle assembly, alternator assembly, alternator assembly, starter assembly, power steering pump assembly, and the same assembly while assembly and transmission assembly whell, starter motor assembly and transmission to engine and tighten bolts, install engine flywheel, starter motor assembly into car, connect and tighten engine and transmission mounts, install engine holding beam fool, install and tighten sub-frame assembly, engine flywheel cover, remove engine holding beam fool, install and tighten sub-frame assembly, engine flywheel cover, remove engine holding beam fool, install and tighten sub-frame assembly, engine flywheel cover, remove engine holding beam fool, inst						

l authorize the above repair work along with the necessary materials. You and your employees may operate the above vehicle for purposes of testing inspection, or delivery at my risk. An express mechanics lien is acknowledgedges above vehicle to secure the amount of repairs thereto. It is also understood that you will not be held responsible for loss or damage to cars or articles left in cars in case of fire, theft or any other cause beyond your control SIGNATURE.

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2TY F	PART#	Boot, outer C V 94-900	SCRIPTION		LABOR AMOUNT				
	8177 6509 8733 ver	Wiper,headlight 93-9000 Bulb,headlight 9003 Bulb,5W @ 1 90 = Saab antifreeze @ 2 25 = Oil,1 liter Saab turbo 5w-30 semi-synthetic @ 2 Gearlube,synthetic 900 Ounce of power steering fluid,@ 30 = Parts subtotal Lubor @ \$60 00 an hour = Notes 1)Tires worn, left front tire leaks 2)Front brake pads and rotors worn 3)Oil and filter change every 5,000 miles, next 4)Car needs service every 10,000 miles Massachusetts state sales tax @ 5% =			25 00 0 10 007 5 701 9 001 10 401 0 007 5 407 20 60 1 5 24 00				

t authorize the above repair work along with the necessary materials. You and your employees may operate the above vehicle for purposes of testing inspection, or delivery at my risk. An express mechanics lien is acknowledgedge above vehicle to secure the amount of repairs thereto. It is also understood that you will not be held responsible for loss or damage to cars or articles left in cars in case of fire, theft or any other cause beyond your control SIGNATURE.

Total \$1 739 88

Any outstanding balance remaining due after 30 days of invoice dite will incul 5% interest per month

December 23, 2005

Saab Customer Assistance Center Saab Cars USA 4405-A International Blvd. Norcross, GA 30093 USA

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for providing your customers with this extended warranty and/or reimbursement should they have already experienced or may experience engine breakdown due to sludge build up. This happened to me, and I have enclosed the supporting documentation. Unfortunately, the engine that replaced the 2000 problematic engine is a 2001 engine. I'm afraid that I may experience a similar problem with this one as well. Therefore, I am requesting reimbursement in the amount of \$3,893.88 and I would like to be given the extended warranty on this engine as well.

I am also asking to be reimbursed for the IDM which I had replaced in the amount of \$443.75. This brings the total to \$4,283.63.

Thank you again,

Susan

April 29, 2006





LKG ROUTE 16 AUTO PARTS 4 OLD DOUGLAS ROAD WEBSTER, MA Ø1570 800-423-4006

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Exhibit C

Proof of Claim No. 18918

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT Southern District of New York	PROOF OF CLAIM
Name of Debtor	Case Number
Motors Liquidation Company (f/k/a General Motors Corporation) NOIE This form should not be used to make a claim for an administrative expense arising after the commencement	of the case A request for payment of an
administrative expense may be filed pursuant to 11 USC § 503	
Name of Creditor (the person or other entity to whom the debtor owes money or property) Prudence Reid	Check this box to indicate that this claim amends a previously filed
Name and address where notices should be sent	claim
Thomas P Sobran	Court Claim Number
7 Evergreen Lane Hingham, MA 02043	(If known)
Telephone number	
(781) 741-6075 Name and address where payment should be sent (if different from above) NOW 2 2009 =	Filed on
Name and address where payment should be sent (if different from above)	☐ Check this box if you are aware that
FILED - 18918	anyone else has filed a proof of claim relating to your claim. Attach copy of
MOTORS LIQUIDATION COMPANY	statement giving particulars
Telephone number F/K/A GENERAL MOTORS CORP	☐ Check this box if you are the debtor
SDNY # 09-50026 (REG)	or trustee in this case
Amount of Claim as of Date Case Filed \$ 1,431.00 A monthly	Friority under 11 U.S.C §507(a)
If all or part of your claim is secured, complete item 4 below, however, if all of your claim is unsecured, do not complete	any portion of your claim falls in
tem 4	one of the following categories, check the box and state the
If all or part of your claim is entitled to priority, complete item 5	amount
Check this box if claim includes interest or other charges in addition to the principal amount of claim. Attach itemized	Specify the priority of the claim
statement of interest or charges	☐ Domestic support obligations under
2 Basis for Claim defective goods	11 U S C \$507(a)(1)(A) or (a)(1)(B)
(See instruction #2 on reverse side) 3 Last four digits of any number by which creditor identifies debtor	☐ Wages, salaries, or commissions (up
	to \$10,950*) earned within 180 days before filing of the bankruptcy
3a Debtor may have scheduled account as (See instruction #3a on reverse side)	petition or cessation of the debtor's
Secured Claim (See instruction #4 on reverse side)	business, whichever is earlier – 11 USC \$507 (a)(4)
Check the appropriate box if your claim is secured by a lien on property or a right of setoff and provide the requested information	1
Nature of property or right of setoff	☐ Contributions to an employee benefit plan – 11 U S C \$507 (a)(5)
Nature of property or right of setoff	
Value of Property S Annual Interest Rate%	☐ Up to \$2,425* of deposits toward purchase, lease, or rental of property
	or services for personal, family, or
Amount of arrearage and other charges as of time case filed included in secured claim,	household use – 11 U S C \$507 (a)(7)
of any \$Basis for perfection	☐ Taxes or penalties owed to
Amount of Secured Claim \$ Amount Unsecured \$	governmental units – 11 U S C \$507 (a)(8)
6 Credits The amount of all payments on this claim has been credited for the purpose of making this proof of claim	1 ````
7 Documents Attach reducted copies of any documents that support the claim, such as promissory notes, purchase	☐ Other – Specify applicable paragraph of 11 U S C \$507 (a)()
orders, invoices, itemized statements of running accounts, contracts, judgments, mortgages, and security agreements	Amount optitled to property
You may also attach a summary Attach redacted copies of documents providing evidence of perfection of a security interest. You may also attach a summary (See instruction 7 and definition of redacted" on reverse side)	Amount entitled to priority
DO NOT SEND ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS ATTACHED DOCUMENTS MAY BE DESTROYED AFTER	\$
CANNING	*Amounts are subject to adjustment on
	4/1/10 and every 3 years thereafter with
If the documents are not available, please explain	respect to cases commenced on or after

10/28/2009

Signature The person filing this claim must sign it Sign and print name and title, if any, of the creditor or other person authorized to file this claim and state address and telephone number if different from the notice address above Attach copy of power of attorney, if any

Thomas P Sobran, Attorney for Prudence Reid

m

THOMAS P. SOBRAN. PC.

COUNSELLOR AT LAW
7 EVERGREEN LANE
HINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS 02043

TELEPHONE (781) 741-6075 FACSIMILE (781) 741-6074 EMAIL tsobran@sobranlaw.com

October 28, 2009

The Garden City Group, Inc. Attn: Motors Liquidation Company Claims Processing P.O. Box 9386 Dublin, OH 43017

Re: In Re Motors Liquidation Company, Southern District of New York Bankruptcy Court Case No. 09-50026

Dear Sir or Madam:

Enclosed please find the proof of claims of Susan B. Angell, Prudence Reid and Joanne Adams in the above-referenced proceeding together with a stamped self-address return envelope. Please return acknowledgement of receipt of the proof of claims in the return envelope.

Very truly yours

Thomas P. Sobran

TPS/awm Enclosures



Saab Cars USA, Inc Claim Reimbursement Form

Date Claim Submitted. 12 25 05
Vehicle Identification Number (VIN): YS3ED+8E913000797
Mileage at Time of Repair. 71 210
Claimant Name (Please Print): PIZUDENCE F REID
Street Address 100 WAITE STREET
City, State, Zip Code REVERE, MA 02151-2419
Daytime Telephone Number. (781) 2860 -1623
Evening Telephone Number (781) 286 -1623
Amount of Reimbursement Requested 1341 74
Please mail this form and required documents to Saab Cars USA, Inc 4405-A International Blvd Norcross, GA 30093
My signature to this document attests that all attached documents are genuine and I request reimbursement for the expense I incurred for the repair identified on the repair invoice
Claimant o Biginature
THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTATION MUST ACCOMPANY THIS CLAIM FORM

Original or a clear copy of all receipts, invoices and/or repair orders that show

- The name and address of the person who paid for the repair
- The Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) of the vehicle that was repaired
- What problem occurred, what repair was done, when it was done and who did it
- The total cost of the repair expense that is being claimed
- Payment for the repair in question and the date of payment. Copy of front and back of cancelled check or copy of credit card receipt.

All scheduled maintenance performed on the vehicle in accordance with the intervals recommended by Saab, should be completed on the attached Service Documentation chart

If you meet all requirements detailed in the Special Policy information, submit this form and the Service Documentation form prior to December 31, 2005. Saab will contact you within 60 days of claim submission.

December 25, 2005

Saab Cars USA, Inc. 4405-A International Blvd Norcorss, GA 30093

Dear Sirs

I am writing you in regard to the Saab oil sludge problem. As you are well aware of this problem and the damage it has caused to thousands of vehicles, I am reporting the problem it has caused to my Saab 2001 9-5. I have found hundred of articles and complaints as mine on the Internet. I believe you have acknowledged an inherent engine design flaw, but have failed to uphold your product standards with all the faithful Saab owners.

Seized engines seen to be a common factor despite various maintenance records. The only thing I don't have in common with the other Saab owners is that my engine hasn't seized YET! That seems to be the order of maintenance. Oil sludge, blown turbo, seized engine, class action suit!

I have had the oil sludge maintenance done to my car and have religiously had my car in for it's required mile checkups, as well as in between 3,000 mile oil check-ups. The dealer has told me the oil sludge problem was the cause of my turbo blow out. And I think anyone could interpret that a turbo engine turning at high speeds without an oil supply will eventually go!

I am requesting a refund for the turbo replacement on my car (1341 74) which includes the labor costs

All documentation is included from the dealer

Thanking you in advance for your attention in this matter

Sincerely,

Prudence F Reid 100 Waite Street Revere, MA 02151

Saab 9-5 2001

VIN YS3ED48E913000797





(781) 944-7760 88-98 Walkers Br Dr P O Box 487 **READING, MA 01867**



VOLVO

(781) 224-3700

(781) 224-3700

614 North Ave PO Box 586 614 North Ave P O Box 586 WAKEFIELD, MA 01880

WAKEFIELD, MA 01880

128 COLLISION CENTER 275 MAIN ST WILMINGTON, MA 01887 (978) 988-2300

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(781) 944-7760 88-98 Walkers Br Dr PO Box 487 READING, MA 01867



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(781) 224-3700 614 North Ave

PO Box 586 WAKEFIELD, MA 01880

(781) 224-3700 614 North Ave PO Box 586 WAKEFIELD, MA 01880

128 COLLISION CENTER

275 MAIN ST WILMINGTON, MA 01887 (978) 988-2300

CUSTOMER NO 15614	1	VICTOR R. MANGIACO	158 626T	12/21/05	SACP434362
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781-286-1623	BUSINESS PHONE	COMMENTS			MO: 71210

TOTALS -

*********** THE 1 2 8 PLEDGE ************

WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR TOTAL SERVICE SATISFACTION 100% SATISFACTION IS OUR GOAL IF YOU ARE NOT "COMPLETLEY SATISFIED" OR COULD NOT "DEFINITELY RECOMMEND"OUR SERVICE DEPARTMENT CONTACT US

FORD/VOLVO

BRIAN DENN AT LUDLOW BERKELEY AT

781-944 7760 781-944-7760

TOTAL LABOR

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TOTAL G O.G..
TOTAL MISC CHG
TOTAL MISC DISC
TOTAL TAX. ... 0 00 100.00 42.94

TOTAL INVOICE \$

1341.74

540 00 858 80

" WE NEVER FORGET YOU HAVE A CHOICE " THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING 128 SALES AND SERVICE

CUSTOMER SIGNATURE

PAGE 2 OF 2

CUSTOMER COPY

[END OF INVOIC!

Exhibit D

Proof of Claim No. 18917

B 10 (Official Form 10) (12/08)		
UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT Southern District of New York		PROOF OF CLAIM
Name of Debtor Motors Liquidation Company (f/k/a General Motors Corporation)	Case Numb 09-5002	6 (REG)
NOTE This form should not be used to make a claim for an administrative expense arising after the commencement of administrative expense may be filed pursuant to 11 USC § 503	f the case A	request for payment of an
Name of Creditor (the person or other entity to whom the debtor owes money or property) Jo Ann Adams Name and address where notices should be sent Thomas P Sobran	1	is box to indicate that this ends a previously filed
Thomas P Sobran 7 Evergreen Lane Hingham, MA 02043	Court Clair (If known	n Number)
Telephone number (781) 741-6075	Filed on	
Name and address where payment should be sent (if different from above) FILED - 18917 MOTORS LIQUIDATION COMPANY F/K/A GENERAL MOTORS CORP Telephone number SDNY # 09-50026 (REG)	anyone e relating t statemen	is box if you are aware that ise has filed a proof of claim o your claim. Attach copy of t giving particulars is box if you are the debtor
		e in this case
I Amount of Claim as of Date Case Filed S 6,045 00 PLLS INTEREST And Amount by S 1663 If all or part of your claim is secured, complete item 4 below, however, if all of your claim is unsecured, do not complete item 4 If all or part of your claim is entitled to priority, complete item 5	Priority any por one of the	of Claim Entitled to under 11 U.S.C §507(a) If tion of your claim falls in the following categories, e box and state the
■ Check this box if claim includes interest or other charges in addition to the principal amount of claim. Attach itemized statement of interest or charges	Specify the	priority of the claim
2 Basis for Claim: defective goods		support obligations under \$507(a)(1)(A) or (a)(1)(B)
(See instruction #2 on reverse side) 3 Last four digits of any number by which creditor identifies debtor	U Wages.:	salaries, or commissions (up
3a Debtor may have scheduled account as (See Instruction #3a on reverse side) 4 Secured Claim (See Instruction #4 on reverse side) Check the appropriate box if your claim is secured by a lien on property or a right of setoff and provide the requested	to \$10,9 before fi petition business	50*) earned within 180 days ling of the bankruptcy or cessation of the debtor's , whichever is earlier - 11 507 (a)(4)
information Nature of property or right of setoff		tions to an employee benefit USC \$507 (a)(5)
Value of Property S Annual Interest Rate% Amount of arrearage and other charges as of time case filed included in secured claim,	purchase or service	,425* of deposits toward , lease, or rental of property es for personal, family, or d use – 11 U S C \$507
Amount of Secured Claim S Amount Unsecured S		penalties owed to ental units ~ 11 U S C §507
6 Credits The amount of all payments on this claim has been credited for the purpose of making this proof of claim 7 Documents Attach redacted copies of any documents that support the claim, such as promissory notes, purchase orders, invoices, itemized statements of running accounts, contracts, judgments, mortgages, and security agreements You may also attach a summary Attach redacted copies of documents providing evidence of perfection of	of 11 U	Specify applicable paragraph S C \$507 (a)() unt entitled to priority
a security interest. You may also attach a summary (See instruction 7 and definition of "reducted" on reverse side)	s	
DO NOT SEND ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS ATTACHED DOCUMENTS MAY BE DESTROYED AFTER SCANNING If the documents are not available, please explain	4/1/10 and e	re subject to adjustment on every 3 years thereafter with ases commenced on or after
The state of the s	the date of a	idjustment
Date 10/28/2009 Signature The person filing this claim must sign it Sign and print name and title, if any, of the cother person authorized to file this claim and state address and telephone number if different from the address above Attach copy of power of attorney, if any Thomas P Sobran, Attorney for Jo Ann Adams		FOR COURT USE ONLY
The Item		

THOMAS P. SOBRAN, P.C.
COUNSELLOR AT LAW
7 EVERGREEN LANE
HINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS 02043

TELEPHONE (781) 741-6075
FACSIMILE (781) 741-6074
EMAIL tsobran@sobranlaw.com

October 28, 2009

- 10 MIN 10 - 1

The Garden City Group, Inc.

Attn: Motors Liquidation Company Claims Processing P.O. Box 9386

Dublin, OH 43017

Re: In Re Motors Liquidation Company, Southern District of New York Bankruptcy Court Case No. 09-50026

Dear Sir or Madam:

Enclosed please find the proof of claims of Susan B. Angell, Prudence Reid and Joanne Adams in the above-referenced proceeding together with a stamped self-address return envelope. Please return acknowledgement of receipt of the proof of claims in the return envelope.

Very truly yours

Thomas P. Sobran

TPS/awm Enclosures

CONTINGENT FEE AGREEMENT

(Executed in Duplicate)

Joanne Adams residing at 18967 Forrer Street, Detroit, MI 48235 (hereinafter "Client") retains THOMAS P. SOBRAN, P C , 7 Evergreen Lane, Hingham, Massachusetts 02043, (hereinafter "Attorney") to perform the legal services mentioned in Paragraph 1 below. The Attorney agrees to perform the services faithfully and with due diligence

- 1. The claim, controversy and other matters with reference to which the services are to be performed are: Resolution of her Saab engine oil sludge repair costs through a pending proposed class action.
- 2 The contingency upon which compensation is to be paid is the collection of moneys following settlement in favor of the Client or verdict in favor of the Client on the claim, controversy and other matters set forth in Paragraph 1 above
- 3. The Client is not liable to pay compensation otherwise than from amounts collected for her by the Attorney except as follows. Not applicable, the only compensation is set forth in $\P 4$.
- 4 Reasonable compensation on the foregoing contingency is to be paid by resolution of the proposed class action in an amount to be approved by the court or at trial from the damages settlement or award
- 5 If the Attorney is discharged by the Client prior to the resolution of the claim, controversy and other matters referenced in paragraph 1, the Attorney shall be entitled to compensation for expenses and disbursements together with the fair value of services rendered to the Client prior to the discharge of the Attorney at the time the claim, controversy and other matters are concluded.
- 6 In the event there is no certification of the Saab proposed class action entitled Angell, et al v. Saab Automobile AB, et al , United States District Court, District of Massachusetts, Boston, Civil Action No 1.08-CV-11201-DPW, Attorney may withdraw from representation of Client.

This agreement and its performance are subject to Rule 3 05 of the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts

THIS CONTINGENT FEE AGREEMENT HAS BEEN READ BY THE CLIENT BEFORE SIGNING AND RECEIPT OF A COPY OF THE AGREEMENT IS ACKNOWLEDGED

Signature of Client

Signature of Attorney

Dated. 10/ /2008



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HYUNDAI



GAAB 1721 HYUNDAL MI 007 KIA MI 001 SUBARU 070484

28000 Telegraph Road SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN 48034 Phone (248) 354 3300 • 1-800 354 5558 • Fax (248) 372 5366

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28000 Telegraph Road SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN 48034 Phone (248) 354-3300 • 1 800 354 5558 • Fax (248) 372 5366

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HEARING DATE AND TIME: March 2, at 9:45 a.m. (Eastern Time) RESPONSE DEADLINE: February 23, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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In re : Chapter 11 Case No.

MOTORS LIQUIDATION COMPANY, et al., : 09-50026 (REG)

f/k/a General Motors Corp., et al.

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Debtors. : (Jointly Administered)

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ORDER GRANTING DEBTORS' OBJECTION TO PROOF OF CLAIM NO. 903 FILED BY SUSAN B. ANGELL AND PRUDENCE REID

Upon the Objection dated January 29, 2010 (the "Objection") to Proof of Claim No. 903 filed by Susan B. Angell and Prudence Reid (the "Angell Putative Class Claim") of Motors Liquidation Company (f/k/a General Motors Corporation) and its affiliated debtors, as debtors in possession (collectively, the "Debtors"), pursuant to section 502(b) of title 11, United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code"), Rule 3007(d) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules"), and this Court's Order Pursuant to Section 502(b)(9) of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rule 3003(c)(3) Establishing the Deadline for Filing Proofs of Claim (Including Claims Under Bankruptcy Code Section 503(b)(9)) and Procedures Relating Thereto and Approving the Form and Manner of Notice Thereof (the "Bar Date Order") [Docket No. 4079], seeking entry of an order disallowing and expunging claim number 903 on the grounds that adjudication of the Angell Putative Class Claim fails to comply with Bankruptcy Rules 9014 and 2019, all as more fully described in the Objection; and due and proper notice of the Objection having been provided, and it appearing that no other or further notice need be provided; and the Court having found and determined that the relief sought in the

Objection is in the best interests of the Debtors, their estates, creditors, and all parties in interest

and that the legal and factual bases set forth in the Objection establish just cause for the relief

granted herein; and after due deliberation and sufficient cause appearing therefor, it is

ORDERED that the relief requested in the Objection is granted as provided

herein; and it is further

ORDERED that, pursuant to section 502(b) of the Bankruptcy Code, the Angell

Putative Class Claim is disallowed and expunged in its entirety; and it is further

ORDERED that this Court shall retain jurisdiction to hear and determine all

matters arising from or related to this Order.

Dated: New York, New York , 2010

United States Bankruptcy Judge