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[Your Name]

[Your Title]

[Your Company]

[Street Address, City, State ZIP]

June 1, 2026

[Opposing Counsel Name]

[Firm Name]

[Address]

**Re: U.S. Patent No. 12240457B1 — Response to Assertion of Infringement**

Dear Counsel,

We acknowledge receipt of your correspondence asserting infringement of U.S. Patent No. 12240457B1 (the "12240457B1 Patent"). After preliminary review, we have substantial concerns about the validity, enforceability, and scope of the asserted claims, summarized below. We reserve all rights and defenses.

## **1. Subject Patent — Summary**

US patent 12240457B1, titled "Vehicle gear selection control," was issued to inventor Bennet Langlotz and is currently assigned to Bulletproof Property Management LLC. The patent has a priority date of June 5, 2023, a filing date of October 27, 2024, and was published/issued on March 4, 2025.

The abstract describes a motor vehicle system where a controller can select a driving direction (forward or reverse) based on observed steering angle movements, without the driver having to manually indicate the desired direction. The system then proposes this change to the driver, who must provide a non-directional approval for the change to be enacted.

Independent Claims Overview:

- Independent...

## **2. Validity Concerns under 35 U.S.C. § 102 — Prior Art**

We have identified prior-art references that, in our preliminary view, anticipate one or more asserted claims of the 12240457B1 Patent:

To identify the most relevant prior art for US patent 12240457B1, I will examine the patent citations listed in the patent document. The USPTO provides a Patent Public Search tool for this purpose.

Here's an analysis of the cited prior art, focusing on its publication/filing date, a brief description, and potential anticipation of claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102:

1. US5436833A

- Full Citation: US5436833A, "Shift-to-neutral reminder prompt system/method"
- Publication Date: 1995-07-25 (Filing Date: 1993-09-07)
- Brief Description: This patent describes a system to remind a driver to shift to neutral when the vehicle is stopped and certain conditions are met, such as the parking brake being engaged.
- Potential Anticipation (35 U.S.C. § 102): Less likely to anticipate the core claims of US12240457B1, as US5436833A focuses on a neutral-shift reminder rather than automatic gear selection based on steering patterns and driver approval for a mode change between drive and reverse. The claims of US12240457B1 explicitly relate to offering a change between drive and reverse based on steering...

### **3. Obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Independent of § 102, we believe the asserted claims are obvious in view of combinations of prior art that a person having ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine:

Obviousness Analysis of US12240457B1 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

This analysis identifies combinations of prior art references that would render the claims of US patent 12240457B1 obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art (PHOSITA), and explains the motivation for such combinations. The analysis focuses on independent claims 1 and 12, which share similar core elements, and their dependent claims.

Independent Claims 1 and 12 Core Elements:

Both independent claims describe a method where a vehicle's drive system (Claim 1) or controller (Claim 12):

1. Monitors steering control while driving in a first direction.
  2. Offers a driver a change from one of the drive mode and reverse mode to the other based on the steering control.
  3. Changes mode in response to a non-directional approval by the driver of the offered change.
- The critical distinguishing features identified in US12240457B1 over the general prior art are:
- The "offering" of a mode change (between drive and reverse) based on observed steering control patterns (or sequences).
  - The requirement of a non-directional...

### **4. Litigation History of the Patent**

Public records reflect that the 12240457B1 Patent has been the subject of the following litigation, which informs our view of the asserted claims and your client's enforcement posture:

- Untitled case — IPR2026-00205 · Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) · Pending

### **5. Request**

In light of the foregoing, we request that your client (i) provide a detailed claim chart identifying each accused product or service and mapping every limitation of each asserted claim, (ii) identify any prior art known to your client, including any references cited during prosecution or

reexamination, and (iii) substantiate the basis for any damages or licensing demand. We are prepared to discuss the matter further once we have received and reviewed the foregoing.

Sincerely,

**[Your Name]**

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