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Other fig. Jun	WED Additional THURS Designation By and Run?
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Equipment : 86 Aba-Mintonst 36 Not Austable	Driver's License Number State Exp. Vear

Haremind Byens

Most Harmful Event per Vehicle (select 1 per vehicle)

Collision with Object Not Fixed

- V1 V2 08 Pedestrian 80
- 09 Pedalcycle 09
- 10 Railway Train 50 50 Deer (Animal)
- 11 11 Other Animal
- 12 Motor Vehicle in Transport
- 13 Motor Vehicle in Transport in Other Roadway
- 14 Parked Motor Vehicle
- 15 15 Other Type Non-Motorist
- 18 18 Other Object (Not Fixed)

Collision with Fixed Object V1 V2

- V1 V2 17 17 Boulder
- 30 30 Utility Pole 31 31 Other Post, Pole, Supp.
- 19 19 Building 20 20 Impact Attenuator
- 32 32 Culvert 33 33 Carb
- 21 21 Bridge Pier/Abutment 22 22 Bridge Parapet End
- 34 34 Ditch
- 23 23 Bridge Rail 24 24 Guardmil Face
- 35 35 Embankment 38 38 Fence
- Œ. 25 Guardmil End 25
- 39 39 Wall
- 28 Median Barrier
- 40 40 Mail Box 27 H-way Truffic Sign Post 41 41 Shrubbery
- 20 20 Overhead Sign Support 42 42 Tree 29 29 Luminaire/Light Supp. 47 47 Fire Hydrant
- 46 49 Traffic Signal Support 43 43 Other Fixed Object

Non-Collision V1 V2

- VI V2 at of Overturn
- uz u2 Fire/Explosion
- 05 05 Fell/Jumped from Vehicle 07 07 Other Non-Collision
- oa oa Immersion
- 18 16 Thrown or Falling Object
- 04 04 Jackknife
- 99 99 Unknown Most Harmful Event

First Harmful Event for the Crash



Manner of Collision at First Harmful Event (select t)

- Not Collision with Motor Vehicle in Transport
- 4 Angle
- 5 Sideswipe, Same Direction
- Rear-End
- 6 Sideswipe, Opposite Direction
- 🏕 Head-On
- 9 Unknown
- 3 Rearto-Rear
 - Relation to Junction at First Harmful Event (select 1)

Interchange Area Non-interchange 10 Intersection Non-function 62 Intersection 11 Intersection-Related 03 Intersection-Related 12 Driveway 04 Driveway, Alley Access, etc. 13 Entrance/Exit Ramp Related 05 Entrance/Exit Ramo Related 14 Crossover-Related

- 07 Crossover-Related 03 Unknown-Non-Interchange
- 06 Rail Grade Crossing 15 Other Location in Interchange 19 Unknowa, Interelginge Area
 - 99 Unknown Relation to Junction

Relation to Roadway at First Harmful Event

01 On Boadway

- 06 Off Roadway-Location Unknown
- Shoulder 03 Median
- oo Gore
- on Readside-Left 65 Roadside-Right
- 07 In Parking Lane
- 11 Parking Lot or Private Property
- 49 Unknown
- 10 Uniside Trafficiery

Driver Condition (may select 3) V1 V2

- 00 00 Appeared Normal
- 01 Had Been Drinking
- -02 02 Hegal Drug Use
- 03 Ill (Sick) 03

60

- 04 04 Apparently Fatigued
- 05 05 Apparently Asleep
- 98 66 Reaction to Drugs/Medication
- 07 Failure to Take Drugs/Medication 07
- 08 Physical Impairment (Norrative) 09 Emotional (Depressed, Angry, Disturbed)
- **(** 99 Unknown Condition

Driver Actions (may select 5)

- Vi V2 10 10 No Contributing Actions
- 11 Inattentive (Eating, Reading, Talking, etc.)
- 12 12 Interfered With by Passenger 13 13 Driving Left of Center
- 14 Driving Wrong Way on One-Way Roadway
- 15 15 Failure to Comply with License Restrictions
- ø
- 16 Failure to Keep in Proper Lane or Running Off Road
- 17 17 Failure to Yield Right of Way
- 18 Failure to Obey Traffic Controls
- 19 Failure to Observe Warnings or Instructions 20
- 20 Failure to Signal Intentions
- 21 21 Failure to Use Lights
- 22 22 Following Improperly
- 2:1 23 Improper Backing
- 24 24 Improper Lane Changing
- 25 25 Improper Passing 25
- 26 Improper Turn 27 Improperly Towing or Pushing Vehicle 27
- 20 Improperly Carrying Hazardous Cargo
- 24 29 Improper Leading of Vehicle Cargo or Passengers
 - 30. Operator lacanoperarie
- 31 31 Operating without Required Equipment
- 32 32 Over Correcting

:841

- 33 33 Careless or Erratic Driving
- 34 34 Reckless or Negligent Driving
- 35 35 Speed Too Fast
- 36 Speed Too Slow 3€
- 37 Vision Obstructed, By What? (Narrative)
- 22 38 Using Telephone, Tivo-Way Radio
- 98 90 Other (Narrative)
- 99 Unknown Action

Highway Construction/Maintenance Zone

₩ None Construction Zone

- Maintenance Zone (Short Duration) Utility Zone (Short Duration)
- Work Zone, Type Unknown
- Haknowa

Light Conditions (select 1)

- Daylight 2 Dark-Not Lighted
- 4 Dawn 5 Dusk
- a Dark-Lighted 9 Unknown

Weather Conditions (select 1) On Smog Smoke

- 01 No Adverse Conditions 🐠 Rain
- oa Sleet, Hail on Snow
- oa Rain and Fog or Sleet and Fog

os Fog

- 09 Blowing Sand, Soil, Dirt, or Snow

(select t)

- 10 Severe Crosswind on Other (narrative)
- 99 Unknown

de se a distraras (distras albanias) Presence

V1 V2 (select 1)

- 0 Neither Alcohol or Drugs Present
- Yes (Alcohol Present)
- 2 Yes (Drugs Present)
- 3 Yes (Alcohol and Drugs Present)
- 9 Unknown

Determination Method

- V1 V2 (select 1 if applies)
- Evidential Test 3 Behavioral
- 4 Passive Alcohol Sensor
- 8 Observed
- a Other

A[cohol Test Type (select 1) (select 1 if applies) V1 V2 V1 V2 95 95 Test Refused Blood 96 None Given 2 Breath

- 2 97 97 Test Given, Results Unknown Urine 92
 - 90 Test Given, Insufficient Sample 99 Unknown, if rested Alcohol Results
- Positive 00 00 Negative BAC Results Drugs Test Type (select 1) (select 1 if applies)
- V1 V2 V1 V2 95 95 lest Refused Blood 49 19 None Given Breath
- 11/ Test Given, Results Unknown Unite 90 Test Given, Insufficient Sample 📳
- 50 Doknown, if tested **Drug Results** on No Brugs Detected
- ibis ing Marijuana d t - 00 Cocaine
- Ost 0.1 Opiates 05 08 Amphetamines
- os es PCP on 08 Other Drug Medication
- 09 09 Drug Type Unknown

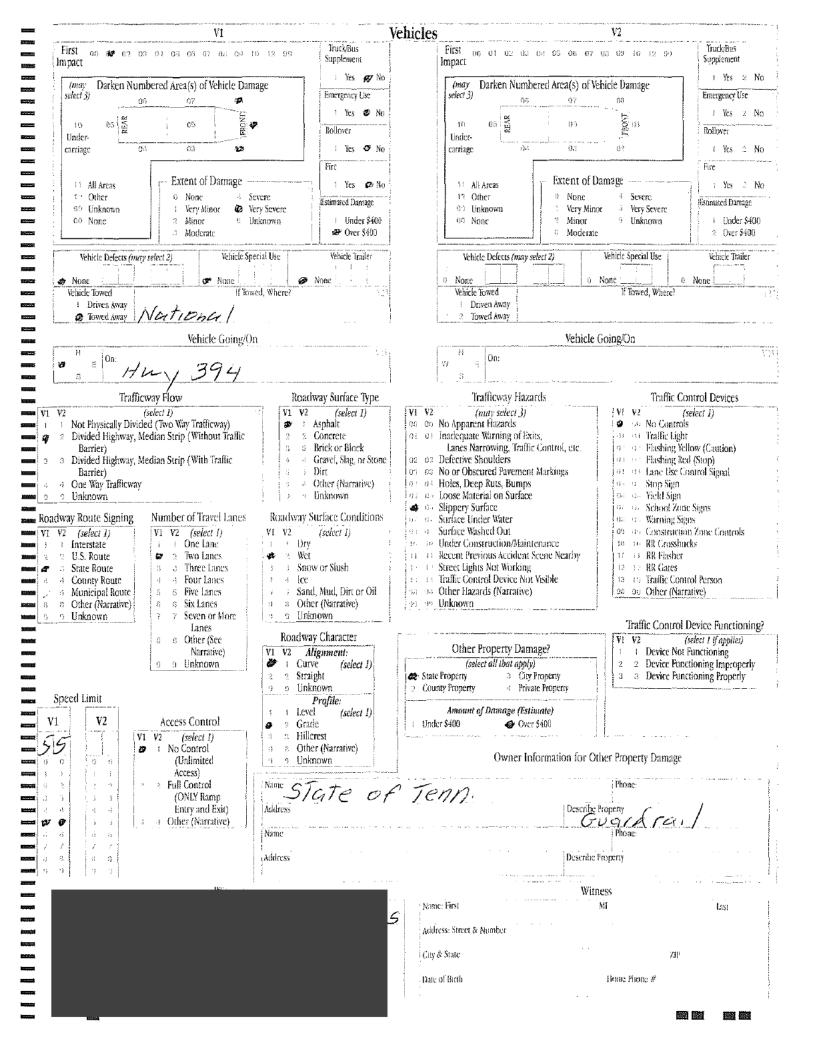
Driver/Vehicle Maneuver (select 1)

(may select 3)

- V1 V2 48 00 Going Straight
- 01 01 Negotiating Curve
- 02 02 Passing or Overtaking Another Vehicle 03 Right Turn to Private Drive
- 0≤ Right Turn to Street 04 05 05 Right Turn on Red Permitted
- os Right Turn on Red Not Permitted 07 07 Left Turn to Private Drive
- 98 Left Turn to Street 09 09 Turning from Wrong Lane
- 10 Making a U-Turn 11 11 Slowing or Stopped for Signal or Sign
- Slowing or Stopped for Turning Traffic 14 Slowing or Stopped for Entering Traffic
- 14 Slowing or Stopped Other → Stopped in Traffic Lane
- 16 16 Starting in Traffic 17 Backing from Drive
- 18 18 Backing from On Street Parking Space 19 Backing Up
- 20 20 Entering from Private Drive 21 21 Leaving a Parked Position
- 24 23 Changing Lancs of Merging 25 Mancovering to Avoid Another Vehicle, Animal,
- Pedestrian, Object, etc. 98 90 Other (Narrative)

99 99 Deknown

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Truck & Bus Crash Information

(This Section Must be Completed for Each Truck or Bus Involved in this Crash,

When To lise This Section: Did the crash involvence. Any person who was fatally injured? Any injured person requiring transport for immediate medical treatment? A truck with at least two axles and six tires? One or more vehicles that had to be towed from the scene as a result of the crash? A truck with a hazardous materials placard? One or more vehicles that required repair or were provided assistance before A has designed to carry 16 or more persons, including the driver? proceeding from scene under own power? STOP! If <u>all</u> the responses to Part A are "NO" do not complete this Truck & Has Cross Information Section. If there are <u>any "YES" answers, continue</u> to Part B **STOP!** If all the responses to Part B are "NO" do not continue II there are <u>any</u> "YES" answers, please complete this Truck & Bus Crash Information Section . Carrier Identification Numbers Source: Vehicle Side 18 1001 TN DOS Shipping Papers Interstate Carrier? ICC MC Trip Manifest Driver Carrier Name Carrier Address Log Book Hazardous Material Placard Displayed? Hazardous Cargo was Released? List the Hazardous Material(s) Class Numbers by name in this load: List the Name(s) of Released **UN Numbers** Hazardous Material(s): Combined Gross Vehicle Weight Rating Vehicle Configuration Cargo Body Type ----Lickness Beast Inst. Tapak Terailor SEQUENCE OF EVENTS FOR THIS VEHICLE Ran off Road Collision involving motor vehicle in transp Jackknife Collision involving parked motor vehicle Largo Jané Gariyate henes Overturn (Rollower) Collision involving train Other Downhill Runaway Collision involving pedalcycle Cargo Loss or Shift Collision involving animal Collision involving fixed object Explosion or Fire Separation of Units Collision involving other object Collision involving pedestrian Vehicle # Carrier Identification Numbers Vehicle Side Shipping Papers ICC MC Interstate Carrier? Trip Manifest Driver Carner Name Carner Address Log Book Hazardous Material Placard Displayed? Hazardous Cargo was Released? List the Hazardous Material(s) Class Numbers by name in this load: List the Name(s) of Released UN Numbers Hazardous Material(s): Combined Gross Vehicle Weight Rating Total # of Axles Vehicle Configuration Cargo Body Type Hiskopies Heavy Bruck Sengliciumi irreiš. Žipšes, 6 isres SEQUENCE OF EVENTS FOR THIS VEHICLE an events in the parter that they secured ! Ran off Road Collision involving motor vehicle in transp

Jackknife Overturn (Rollover) Downhill Runaway Cargo Loss or Shift Explosion or Fire Separation of Units Collision involving pedestrian

Collision involving parked motor vehicle Collision involving train Collision involving pedalcycle Collision involving animal Collision involving fixed object Collision involving other object





Farhar 1 Bl DIAGRAM Indicate North By Arrow NoTTO Scale Narrative The driver of vehicle #1 was going wes on Huy 394 when she ran off the road and b. the end of the guardrail.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR SULLIVAN COUNTY AT BRISTOL, TENNESSEE

SANDRA LESTER, as mother and as)
representative / administratrix of the Estate of)
Decedent SABRENA CARRIER,)
representative and grandmother of A.R.C.,)
next of kin, beneficiary and minor son)
of Sabrena Carrier,)
)
Plaintiff,)
) Docket No.: <u>C13737</u>
vs)
)
)
) 12 Person Jury Demanded
TENNESSEE GUARDRAIL, INC.,)
JAMES H. DREW CORPORATION,)
TRINITY INDUSTRIES, INC. and)
THE STATE OF TENNESSEE,)Claims Commission No.: 20100759
Defendants.) consolidated with C133737(M)

ANSWER TO SECOND AMENDED COMPLAINT

Comes the defendant Trinity Highway Products, LLC, through its attorneys and for its answer to the second amended complaint, says:

- 1. That this defendant incorporates by reference its previously filed answer in this case.
- 2. That this defendant does not have sufficient information to either admit or deny the allegations contained in paragraphs 1-3 of the second amended complaint and therefore demands strict proof thereof if the same become material.
- 3. That it relies upon the defense of preemption of state law by federal law based upon the facts alleged in its original answer and based upon the facts alleged in this answer since Plaintiff's claims are preempted by federal law in that Trinity Highway's highway

guardrail end treatment systems were researched, tested, developed, manufactured, marketed and sold in a manner consistent with the state of the art procedures at the pertinent time and that said highway guardrail systems complied with applicable highway authority, the National Cooperative Highway Research Program Report 350 criteria, meeting Federal Highway Administration requirements, for installation on the national highway system and as required by those standards/criteria.

- 4. That this defendant admits the allegations of paragraph 4 of the second amended complaint but specifically avers that it sells highway guardrail and end treatment systems accepted by the Federal Highway administration ("FHWA"), admits that state departments of transportation, or the applicable highway authority, can specify its products as being compliant with the National Cooperative Highway Research Program ("NCHRP") Report 350 criteria, meeting FHWA requirements, for installation on a national highway system.
- 5. That it admits the allegations contained in paragraphs 5, 6, 8, and 9 of the second amended complaint.
- 6. That it denies paragraphs numbered 7 and 12 of the second amended complaint as not explained, but it is admitted that it manufactures and sells highway guardrail and treatment systems accepted by the FHWA, admits that state Department of Transportation, or the applicable highway authority, can specify its products as being compliant with the NCHRP Report 350 criteria, meeting FHWA requirements, for installation on the national highway systems.

- 7. That this defendant admits that at all times, the ET Plus was federally accepted as an energy absorbing end terminal and that it sold those devices as alleged above.

 All other allegations contained in paragraph 10 of the second amended complaint are denied.
- 8. That this defendant admits that the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI), a state agency of the Texas A & M University System, designs, develops, tests and owns the intellectual property comprising the ET Plus guardrail end treatment system and that TTI licenses certain of its roadside device intellectual property to this defendant which comprise the ET-Plus end treatment system and therefore denies the remainder of the allegations contained in paragraphs 11 and 13 of the second amended complaint.
- 9. That it admits that the FHWA, United States Department of Transportation (USDOT), accepts (or deems eligible) roadside devices, tested pursuant to the NCHRP 350 criteria (or the MASH criteria), for use along and on roads and bridges built with federal funds, admits that state highway departments are required to use roadside devices accepted by FHWA pursuant to the NCHRP Report 350 criteria when the state road department constructs and repairs roads and bridges with federal funds.
- 10. That it admits FHWA, USDOT, or other applicable authority, accepts roadside devices (or determines that they are eligible for reimbursement under the Federal-Aid Highway Program) tested pursuant to their criteria, for use along and on roads and bridges built with federal funds, admits that state highway departments are required to use roadside devices accepted (or deemed eligible) by FHWA pursuant to NCHRP Report 350 criteria when the state road department constructs and repairs roads and bridges with federal funds.
- 11. That it admits FHWA, USDOT, accepts (or deems eligible) roadside devices tested pursuant to their criteria, for use along and on roads and bridges built with federal

funds, admits that state highway departments are required to use roadside devices accepted by FHWA pursuant to NCHRP Report 350 criteria when the state road department constructs and repairs roads and bridges with federal funds.

- 12. That it admits that all Trinity Highway Products have been accepted (or deemed eligible) by FHWA for use on the national highway system, admits that state highway departments are required to use roadside devices accepted by FHWA pursuant to NCHRP Report 350 criteria when the state road department constructs and repairs roads and bridges with federal funds.
- the impact performance of the ET Plus extruder head could be enhanced by reducing the amount of play between the downstream end of the guide channel and the W-beam, in both the lateral and vertical directions. Trinity accepted the suggestion of TTI and agreed to check with their manufacturing facilities to determine if this enhancement could be accomplished. Trinity continued discussions with TTI as to the idea and, in May of 2005, Trinity, with the approval of TTI, manufactured an ET-Plus Extruder Head with a 4-inch guide channel attached to the extruder head. This extruder head, as manufactured, was sent to TTI, who included it as the extruder head utilized in the head on zero degree impact crash testing done on the ET Plus system during the last week of May, 2005.
- 14. That it avers that TTI performed a NCHRP 350, TL-3 crash test on the ET Plus system, and that TTI compiled a crash test report on the performance of the ET-Plus system during the May 2005 testing. In compiling that crash test report, TTI inadvertently omitted a detail drawing of the ET Plus extruder head that was part of the testing. However, TTI has confirmed to both the Federal Highway Administration, as well as Mr. Ali R. Hangul, PE,

CPESC, CE Manager I, Design Division of the Tennessee DOT that the ET Plus extruder head tested in May of 2005 did incorporate 4" guide channels (chute) and that the W-Beam guardrail, as well as the rail splice fed smoothly through the extruder head as designed and that the crash test in 2005 demonstrated that the test met all applicable NCHRP Report 350 evaluation criteria.

- 15. That it avers that Mr. Hangul accepted TTI's explanation of the 2005 testing and that TTI's answer met all of Tennessee DOT's questions on this issue.
- 16. That it avers that on October 11, 2012, the Federal Highway Administration confirmed that on February 14, 2012, individuals from Trinity, as well as Dr. Roger Bligh of TTI met with the FHWA and confirmed that 4-inch guide channels were attached to the ET Plus extruder head that was part of the system crash tested at TTI in May of 2005; that TTI confirmed this through Dr. Bligh; that Trinity submitted documentation demonstrating the enhancements to the ET Plus, including the reduction of the guide chute width from 5 inches to 4 inches in 2005. The FHWA determined that the Trinity ET-Plus end terminal with the 4-inch guide channels is eligible for reimbursement under the Federal-Aid Highway Program under FHWA letter CC-94 of September 2, 2005.
- 17. Trinity denies that anything that occurred after this accident is relevant, material or admissible at the trial of this case. That it admits that TTI designs, develops, tests and owns the intellectual property compromising the ET-Plus guardrail end treatment system, admits that TTI licenses certain of its roadside device intellectual property to Trinity.
- 18. That this defendant denies the allegations contained in paragraphs 14-44 of the second amended complaint as not explained above.

- 19. That Plaintiff's claims are barred in whole or in part by the applicable provisions of the United States Constitution, the Tennessee Constitution and/or the applicable Constitution of any other State or Commonwealth of the United States whose laws might be deemed controlling in this case. These provisions include, but are not limited to, the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States and/or pertinent portions of the Tennessee constitution because Trinity's commercial speech regarding the marketing of highway guardrail end treatment systems was neither false nor misleading.
- 20. That based on the state of scientific, medical, and technological knowledge existing at the time the highway guardrail end treatment systems were designed, developed, manufactured, produced, marketed, assembled, tested, distributed, or sold by Trinity, said products were reasonably safe for their normal and foreseeable use at all relevant times, or in light of existing reasonably available medical, scientific, and technological knowledge
- 21. That while this defendant denies any wrongdoing, it does not have sufficient information to either admit or deny the remaining allegations contained in paragraphs 45-51 of the second amended complaint and therefore demands strict proof thereof if same becomes material.
- 22. That this defendant denies the allegations contained in paragraphs 52-62 of the second amended complaint.
- 23. That while this defendant does not have sufficient information at this time to either admit or deny the allegations contained in paragraphs 63-66 of the second amended complaint, it adopts same by reference and therefore relies upon comparative fault of the codefendants if same becomes material.

- That this defendant denies the allegations contained in paragraph 67 of the 24. second amended complaint as they relate to it.
- That this defendant denies the allegations contained in paragraph 68 of the 25. second amended complaint, denies said allegation states a cause of action for which relief may be granted and relies upon the one year statute of limitations contained therein.
- That the allegations of paragraphs 69-71 of the second amended complaint are 26. denied.
- That while this defendant denies any wrongdoing whatsoever, it does not have 27. sufficient information to either admit or deny the remaining allegations contained in paragraphs 72-75 of the second amended complaint and therefore demands strict proof thereof if the same become material.
- That this defendant specifically relies upon the fault of plaintiff's decedent in 28. causing the accident in question and, in the alternative, relies upon comparative fault of the co-defendants as alleged in the second amended complaint.
- That this defendant moves for a bifurcated discovery and trial on the issue of 29. punitive damages as required by law.
- That all other allegations not heretofore admitted, explained or denied are here 30. and now denied as if specifically so.

WHEREFORE, this defendant demands to be dismissed with its costs and demands a twelve-person jury to try its cause.

> RUSSELL C. BROWN, O'NEIL, PARKER & WILLIAMSON, PLLC, and HALE, LYLE & RUSSELL, PC

BY: Frank Q. Vettori, BPR #000714

Attorneys for Trinity Highway Products, LLC 7610 Gleason Drive-Suite 200 Knoxville, TN 37919 (865) 546-7190

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that an exact copy of this pleading has been served upon counsel of record for all parties by placing same in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, or by delivering same to the office of said counsel of record.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR SULLIVAN COUNTY AT BRISTOL, TENNESSEE

SANDRA LESTER, as mother and personal)	
Representative/administratrix of the Estate)	
Of Decedent SABRENA CARRIER,)	
Representative and grandmother of A.R.C.,	
Next of kin, beneficiary and minor son of)	No.: C13737 (M)
SABRENA CARRIER,	
)	JURY DEMANDED
Plaintiff,	
)	
v.)	
)	
TENNESSEE GUARDRAIL, INC.,	(Claims Commission No. 20100759
JAMES H. DREW CORPORATION,)	consolidated with C13737 (M))
TRINITY HIGHWAY PRODUCTS, LLC.,)	
and THE STATE OF TENNESSEE,)	
)	
Defendants.	

AMENDED COMPLAINT

Plaintiff Sandra Lester, as personal representative / administratrix of the Estate of Decedent Sabrena Carrier, and as representative and grandmother of A.R.C., next of kin, beneficiary and the minor son of Sabrena Carrier, now appears, by and through counsel, in this case, which arises out of the injuries and wrongful death suffered by Sabrena Gayle Carrier ("Ms. Carrier) in a traffic collision on December 17, 2008, in Blountville, Sullivan County, Tennessee, on account of the wrongful and negligent conduct by and/or attributable to the Defendants herein; for cause of action against these Defendants, Plaintiff states the following contentions.

PARTIES, JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 1. Plaintiff Sandra Lester, as personal representative / administratrix of the Estate of Decedent Sabrena Carrier, and as representative and grandmother of A.R.C., next of kin, beneficiary and the minor son of Sabrena Carrier, is a citizen and resident of Bluff City, Sullivan County, Tennessee, residing at 377 N. Carter Street, Bluff City, Tennessee 37618.
- 2. Defendant Tennessee Guardrail, Inc. is a domestic corporation doing business in Tennessee and at all times material to this incident was the installer of the guardrail referred to herein.
- 3. Defendant James H. Drew Corporation, a foreign corporation, organized in the State of Indiana, at all times relevant to this action was doing business in and/or through the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court at the time of the subject incident, and is the parent company for Tennessee Guardrail, Inc.
- 4. Defendant Trinity Highway Products, LLC ("Trinity"), is a foreign limited liability company, organized in the State of Delaware, which at all relevant times was doing business in the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court. Trinity's principal place of business is located at 2525 N. Stemmons Freeway, Dallas, Texas, 75207. Trinity was the manufacturer, distributor, marketer, and seller of the guardrail terminal involved in the subject collision.
- 5. Defendant State of Tennessee is subject to suit in this Honorable Court pursuant to T.C.A. Sections 9-8-301, et seq., and 9-8-401, et seq.
 - 6. Jurisdiction and venue are proper in this Honorable Court.

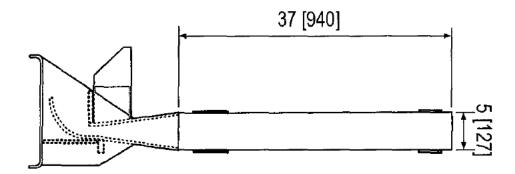
THE NATURE OF THE PRODUCT DEFECT AND EVENT CAUSING SABRENA CARRIER'S INJURIES AND DEATH

- 7. A guardrail terminal is a safety device designed to absorb energy in the event a motor vehicle collides with or impacts the terminal end of a guardrail. The quality of these safety devices is of grave and serious concern to the federal and state transportation authorities which purchase these devices for installation on roads and highways across the country.
- 8. Trinity has been (and remains) in the business of manufacturing guardrail systems installed in Tennessee and throughout the United States, including guardrail terminals.
- 9. At times relevant to this case, Trinity manufactured, distributed, marketed, and sold a guardrail terminal known as the ET-Plus; the "ET-Plus" name is a trademark of Trinity and/or Trinity's agent.
- 10. Based upon information and belief, through approximately 2004, the ET-Plus was a federally accepted and energy absorbing end terminal. For many years, Trinity (and/or Trinity's predecessor business entity and/or entities related to Trinity) sold the ET-Plus for use at the termination of flexible barriers on the shoulders of roadways and in roadway medians.
- 11. Trinity has manufactured, distributed, marketed and sold the ET-Plus at all times relevant to this action based on a license it has held, which was assigned to Trinity by a related entity and/or the Texas A&M University System ("Texas A&M"); based upon information and belief, Texas A&M acquired the patent(s) for the ET-Plus from its inventors.
- 12. At all relevant times, Trinity has manufactured, marketed, distributed and sold the ET-Plus guardrail terminal for use by cities, counties, and state departments of transportation, contractors and installers for roadway and highway safety.

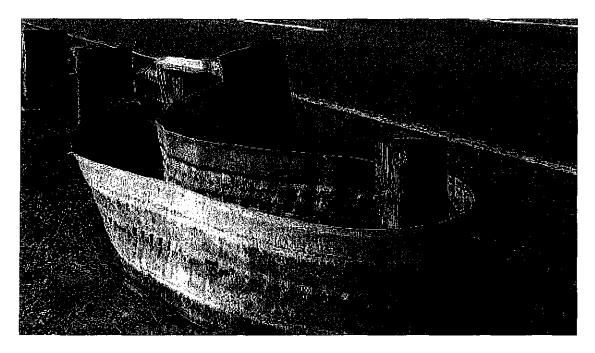
- 13. At all relevant times, Trinity has manufactured, marketed, distributed and sold the ET-Plus guardrail terminal to the governmental entities and the businesses referenced above based in significant part on representations and guarantees by Trinity and its employee, officers and agents that the ET-Plus has been and is approved by the appropriate state and federal highway authorities (including the Federal Highway Administration).
- 14. At times relevant to this case, the ET-Plus has been represented by Trinity's officers, employees and agents to be a federally approved, energy-absorbing device installed at the terminal end of roadway guardrails.
- 15. At times relevant to this case, Trinity's ET-Plus has been represented by Trinity's officers, employees and agents to be one of the highest quality guardrail terminals on the market.
- 16. Based upon information and belief, the original production version of the ET-Plus guardrail terminal which was not the version involved in the collision that is the subject of this case -- was originally designed and tested by and/or through Texas A&M University / Texas Transportation Institute.
- 17. The primary regulatory and industry authorities involved in the regulation of highway products such as guardrail terminals include the United States Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, the National Cooperative Highway Research Program ("NCHRP") and various state highway departments, including the Tennessee Department of Transportation.
- 18. These organizations establish certain standards and specifications related to the manufacture of highway products, including the ET-Plus guardrail terminals.

- 19. If any of Trinity's products were found not to be in compliance with these standards and specifications, Trinity (through its officers, employees and agents) knew that Trinity could not sell the products and, further, would be required to re-submit and re-qualify its products for use and installation on state and national highways.
- 20. Since approximately 2005, Trinity and its officers, employees, and agents have made representations to the primary regulatory and industry authorities that their highway products, including the ET-Plus guardrail terminals, are in substantial compliance with all applicable standards and specifications.
- 21. Based upon information and belief, the original production version of the ET-Plus guardrail terminal was initially approved by primary regulatory and industry authorities, including the Federal Highway Administration and the National Cooperative Highway Research Program, in or about January of 2000.
- 22. This approval was based, in part, on the design specifications provided to these authorities by Trinity and/or its predecessor entity and/or a related Trinity entity.
- 23. The original production version of the ET-Plus guardrail terminal included an extruder head that differed from the head used in a previous design, the ET-2000, in the size and shape of its face plate and in the omission or reduction of several of its non-structural components.
- 24. The original production of the ET-Plus guardrail terminal was produced by Trinity and/or Trinity's predecessor entity and/or a related Trinity entity from about 1999 until approximately 2004.

- 25. The original production of the ET-Plus guardrail terminal had four basic sections: an impact head, deflector, extruder throat and feeder chute.
- 26. The feeder chute of the original ET-Plus production had a width of 5 inches and a length of 37 inches as is generally depicted below:

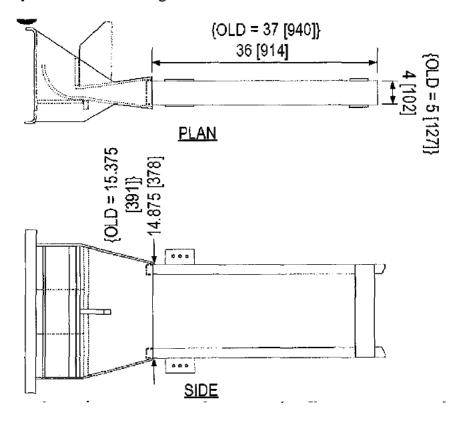


- 27. Based upon information and belief, the original production of the ET-Plus guardrail terminal met the design specifications created by the Texas Transportation Institute for Trinity Highway and Trinity Industries the same design specifications that were presented to and approved by primary regulatory and industry authorities, including the Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, NCHRP and the TN DOT.
- 28. When impacted, the ET-Plus, as originally designed, created a dynamic compression plume as the terminal moves down the guardrail. The extruder head would plume the guardrail, flatten the guardrail, and deflect the flattened guardrail.
- 29. The original production of the ET-Plus was able to handle a dynamic compression plume. Based upon information and belief, when the original version of the ET-Plus was impacted, it generally worked as designed i.e., the guardrail absorbed the impact as is generally depicted below:



- 30. In approximately 2004, Trinity modified the ET-PLUS guardrail terminal. In essence, the version of the ET-Plus guardrail terminal manufactured, distributed, marketed and sold after 2004, including at all times relevant to this case, is materially different than the original production of the ET-Plus guardrail terminal.
- 31. The post-2004 production version of the ET-Plus guardrail terminal is materially different than the design drawings and specifications created for the original ET-Plus by the Texas Transportation Institute / Texas A&M.
- 32. The post-2004 production version of the ET-Plus guardrail terminal is materially different than the design drawings and specifications that were presented (by Trinity and/or Trinity's officers, employees and/or agents) to and approved by primary regulatory and industry authorities, including the Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration and the NCHRP.

- 33. The post-2004 production version of the ET-PLUS guardrail terminal has a feeder chute with a width of 4 inches as opposed to 5 inches.
- 34. The post-2004 production version of the ET-Plus guardrail terminal has a reduced rail height from 15.375 inches to 14.875 inches.
- 35. The post-2004 production version of the ET-Plus guardrail terminal has the rails inserted .75 inches deep into the extruder throat; the feeder chute did not intrude into the extruder throat on the original production version of the ET-Plus.
- 36. In the post-2004 production version, the ET-Plus impact plate, deflector and extruder throat are generally the same as the original production version of the ET-Plus, but the feeder chute is shorter, narrower and intrudes into the extruder throat. These differences are generally depicted in red in the diagram below:



- 37. In or about October of 2009, after the occurrence of the collision that is the subject of this action, Trinity (through its officers, employees and/or agents) sent another design approval request to the primary and regulatory industry authorities, including the Federal Highway Administration, for the ET-Plus guardrail terminal. Significantly, the version of the ET-Plus submitted at that time once again had a feeder chute with 5 inch wide feeder rails that did not intrude into the extruder head.
- 38. Accordingly, the version of the ET-Plus which has been submitted for approval to the referenced primary and regulatory industry authorities, both before and after the subject collision, is materially different from the ET-Plus system Trinity has manufactured, distributed, marketed and sold between 2005 and 2009, including the ET-Plus guardrail terminal that was involved in the subject collision on December 17, 2008.
- 39. The changes made and authorized by Trinity to the version of the ET-Plus guardrail terminal at issue in this case, which was manufactured, distributed, marketed and sold between approximately 2005 and 2009 (the "subject version of the ET-Plus guardrail terminal") have critically affected the performance of the ET-Plus guardrail terminal when impacted by a vehicle.
- 40. The subject version of the ET-Plus guardrail terminal, with its production changes including the reduction in width of the feeder rails, height reduction within the extruder throat, and the reduction of its exit gap, causes the guardrail terminal to "throat lock" in the extruder throat during an impact.
- 41. When the subject version of the ET-Plus guardrail terminal "throat locks," it is incapable of absorbing an impact.

42. Accordingly, the subject version of the ET-Plus guardrail terminal no longer creates a dynamic compression capable of pluming, flattening and deflecting a guardrail and fails to function as intended; a photograph of an example of such a failure is shown below:



- 43. Neither the production changes in the subject version of the ET-Plus guardrail terminal, including the reduction in width of the feeder rails, height reduction within the extruder throat, and the reduction of its exit gap, nor the subject version of the ET-Plus guardrail terminal which incorporates these changes have been approved by the primary and regulatory industry authorities referenced above, including but not limited to the Federal Highway Administration and the Tennessee Department of Transportation.
- 44. Neither the production changes in the subject version of the ET-Plus guardrail terminal, including the reduction in width of the feeder rails, height reduction within the extruder throat, and the reduction of its exit gap, nor the subject version of the ET-Plus guardrail terminal which incorporates these changes have been appropriately tested to determine the safety and

performance of this version of the guardrail terminal, either by Trinity, by third parties, or by any of the referenced primary and regulatory industry authorities.

- 45. On December 17, 2008, at approximately 7:15 a.m., Ms. Sabrena Carrier was traveling westbound along Highway 394 near its intersection of Earhart Road on her way to work and was driving her 2006 Honda Ridgeline in a safe and prudent manner.
- 46. Through no fault of her own, Ms. Carrier unforeseeably began to experience dizziness and blurred vision on account of a medical condition.
- 47. As Ms. Carrier's vehicle was heading down the straight portion of the roadway leading up to the curve just prior to the referenced intersection, on account of said condition, Ms. Carrier was unable to appreciate the curve. Accordingly, Ms. Carrier's vehicle continued going straight, such that the vehicle proceeded off the roadway and directly into the end of the guardrail terminal which had been affixed along side of the edge of the road into the curve just prior to the referenced intersection.
- 48. The guardrail terminal impacted by the vehicle Ms. Carrier was driving was intended to be manufactured, designed, installed, repaired, and/or maintained in a manner that would provide protection to the motoring public and prevent the end of the guardrail terminal or any portion of the guardrail from entering the passenger compartment of a vehicle with which it came into contact.
- 49. However, on account of the wrongful and negligent conduct by and/or attributable to each of the Defendants herein and/or their employees and/or agents, a portion of the subject guardrail did in fact penetrate the passenger compartment, striking Ms. Carrier's torso and causing her to suffer serious and fatal injuries.

- 50. The photograph attached as **Exhibit A** to this Complaint is a true and accurate representation of the manner in which the subject guardrail wrongfully penetrated the passenger compartment of Ms. Carrier's vehicle as is generally described above.
- 51. The impact of the guardrail against Ms. Carrier's torso and body caused Ms. Carrier to suffer immediate and horrible pain and discomfort, severe damage to her organs, internal bleeding and multiple fractures. Despite being treated at the scene and rushed for emergency treatment to Wellmont-Bristol Regional Hospital and despite being well-attended by the healthcare personnel at the scene and at the hospital, the referenced injuries ultimately were fatal and Ms. Carrier died approximately five hours after the collision.
- 52. Trinity acted fraudulently, recklessly, and/or with deliberate indifference by engaging in the dangerous, inexplicable, improper and unnecessary wrongful conduct described above, in that they fraudulently, recklessly, and/or with deliberate indifference made changes to the production version of the ET-Plus guardrail terminal between approximately 2005 and 2009 which caused and/or allowed a large number of guardrail terminals, including the guardrail terminal involved in the subject collision, to be manufactured, distributed, marketed and sold and placed into the stream of commerce while being unsafe, defective, unreasonably dangerous, nonconforming, and not approved as required by the primary and regulatory government and industry agencies referenced above.
- 53. Moreover, Trinity acted fraudulently, recklessly, and/or with deliberate indifference by engaging in the dangerous, inexplicable, improper and unnecessary wrongful conduct described above while at the same time failing to inform purchasers, governmental

entities, contractors, installers, and the public that the referenced production changes had been made.

- 54. Additionally, Trinity acted fraudulently, recklessly, and/or with deliberate indifference by engaging in the dangerous, inexplicable, improper and unnecessary wrongful conduct described above while at the same time making material misrepresentations to purchasers, governmental entities, contractors, installers, and the public that the referenced production versions of the ET-Plus guardrail terminals were safe for their intended use and were the same and/or substantially the same as the previous versions of the ET-Plus guardrail terminals that had been appropriately tested and approved by the appropriate governmental agencies.
- 55. Further, Trinity acted fraudulently, recklessly, and/or with deliberate indifference by engaging in the dangerous, inexplicable, improper and unnecessary wrongful conduct described above while at the same time wrongfully concealing from purchasers, governmental entities, contractors, installers, and the public that the referenced production versions of the ET-Plus guardrail terminals had not been appropriately tested or approved by the appropriate governmental agencies.
- 56. Trinity's fraudulent, reckless, and/or deliberately indifferent wrongful conduct falls within the meaning of the Tennessee Supreme Court's definition of the type of conduct that merits the award of punitive damages in this case as is set forth in Hodges v. S.C. Roof & Co., 833 S.W. 2d 896 (1992).

ADDITIONAL BASES FOR RECOVERY AGAINST THE DEFENDANTS

- 57. Based upon information and belief, the subject guardrail and its component parts were negligently and wrongfully manufactured, distributed, marketed and sold by Defendant Trinity such that the ET-Plus guardrail terminal involved in the subject collision and its component parts were placed into the stream of commerce by Trinity in a defective and/or unreasonably dangerous condition within the meaning of T.C.A. § 29-28-101, et. seq, the Tennessee Product Liability Act.
- 58. Further, Trinity wrongfully concealed from purchasers, installers, governmental entities, and/or those responsible for repairing and/or maintaining roadways, including those persons and entities who had those responsibilities with regard to the roadway where the subject collision occurred, that the subject production version of the ET-Plus guardrail terminal was unsafe, defective, unreasonably dangerous, non-conforming, not tested, and not an approved/certified product.
- 59. Moreover, Trinity wrongfully made misrepresentations to purchasers, installers, governmental entities, and/or those responsible for repairing and/or maintaining roadways, including those persons and entities who had those responsibilities with regard to the roadway where the subject collision occurred, that the subject production version of the ET-Plus guardrail terminal was safe, had been appropriately tested, was approved, and conformed to all applicable government and industry standards, when in fact such representations were not true. These misrepresentations were relied upon by the persons and entities referenced herein; it was foreseeable that such misrepresentations would be relied upon by said persons and entities, and it was known and understood that said persons and entities were performing responsibilities on

behalf of the motoring public, including Sabrena Carrier, when said persons and entities were receiving and relying upon Trinity's misrepresentations in purchasing and installing the referenced production version of the ET-Plus guardrail terminal.

- 60. Additionally, the subject guardrail and its component parts were manufactured, assembled, sold and/or designed by Defendant Trinity in a manner which breached express and/or implied warranties of merchantability and/or fitness for its intended purpose.
- 61. Each of the wrongful acts and omissions stated above, which were committed by Trinity and its officers, employees and agents, constituted a proximate cause of the injuries, damages and wrongful death suffered by decedent Sabrena Carrier and, therefore, Plaintiff herein.
- 62. Plaintiff specifically states that with regard to the fraudulent, reckless, wrongful and deliberately indifferent conduct on the part of Trinity and its officers, employees and agents concerning the changes to the ET-Plus guardrail terminal and the characteristics of the ET-Plus guardrail terminal generally outlined above that were not certified and/or approved by the appropriate state and federal governmental agencies and regulatory authorities and that made the subject version of the ET-Plus guardrail terminal defective and unreasonably dangerous as aforesaid, those matters were wrongfully and improperly concealed by Trinity and its officers, employees and agents such that Plaintiff, in the exercise of reasonable diligence, was unable to discover such matters until on or after November 4, 2011.
- 63. Based upon information and belief, Defendant Tennessee Guardrail, Inc. ("Tennessee Guardrail") and/or James H. Drew Corporation ("James H. Drew") negligently and wrongfully selected and/or installed the subject guardrail terminal in a manner which caused

and/or contributed to the subject guardrail terminal and/or guardrail components not functioning as intended. Further, Plaintiff specifically alleges that the acts and omissions of the officers, employees and agents of Tennessee Guardrail are attributable to James H. Drew pursuant to the doctrine and principles of the law of agency.

- 64. The negligence of Tennessee Guardrail and James H. Drew referenced above constituted a proximate cause of the injuries, damages and wrongful death suffered by decedent Sabrena Carrier and, therefore, Plaintiff herein.
- 65. Based upon information and belief, at all relevant times, agents and employees of the State of Tennessee, while acting in concert with agents and/or employees of Tennessee Guardrail and James H. Drew, and/or while acting as agents of Tennessee Guardrail and James H. Drew, negligently selected and purchased the subject guardrail terminal in a defective and/or unreasonably dangerous condition, such that it posed a danger to motorists such as decedent Sabrena Carrier.
- 66. Such negligence attributable to the agents and/or employees of the State of Tennessee, while said individuals were acting in concert with agents and/or employees of Tennessee Guardrail and James H. Drew, and/or while said individuals were acting as agents of Tennessee Guardrail and James H. Drew, constituted a proximate cause of the injuries, damages and wrongful death suffered by decedent Sabrena Carrier and, therefore, Plaintiff herein.
- 67. Plaintiff further cites the following wrongful conduct attributable to the Defendants which constitutes the proximate, legal cause of Plaintiff's damages.
- (a) As is generally set forth above, the subject guardrail terminal was manufactured, distributed, marketed and sold in an unreasonably dangerous and/or defective condition within

the meaning of the Tennessee Products Liability Act (T.C.A. Section 29-28-101 et. seq.). Accordingly, Trinity is strictly liable to the Plaintiff for the injuries and wrongful death sustained by Ms. Carrier in the subject collision on account of the conduct of Trinity's officers, employees and agents in the manufacture, distribution, marketing and sale of the subject ET-Plus guardrail terminal and the referenced component parts, as such conduct constitutes a proximate, legal cause of Sabrena Carrier's severe injuries and wrongful death and Plaintiff's resulting damages.

- (b) Trinity is liable in warranty as aforesaid, as the referenced breaches of express and implied warranties of merchantability and/or fitness for the product's intended purpose constitutes a proximate, legal cause of the decedent's and Plaintiff's injuries and damages.
- (c) As set forth above, Trinity wrongfully and/or deliberately concealed from purchasers, installers, roadway designers, and/or those responsible for repairing and/or maintaining the roadway where the subject collision occurred (as well as other roadways) that the subject version of the ET-Plus guardrail terminal (and the ET-Plus guardrail terminal involved in the subject collision) was unsafe, non-conforming, not tested, and not approved/certified. Trinity's conduct in that regard, through its officers, employees and/or agents, constitutes a proximate, legal cause of the decedent's and Plaintiff's damages.
- (d) Plaintiff specifically alleges that the subject version of the ET-Plus guardrail terminal (and the ET-Plus guardrail terminal involved in the subject collision) did not comply with federal and state regulations and statutes applicable to such guardrail terminals, that Trinity had a duty to comply with said regulations and statutes, that decedent Sabrena Carrier was within the class of persons that said regulations and statutes were intended by the respective legislative bodies and governmental agencies to protect, that Trinity's violations of said regulations and

statutes constitutes negligence *per se*, and that such negligence was the proximate cause of Plaintiff's injuries; further, Plaintiff specifically alleges that Trinity's manufacture, distribution, marketing and sale of the referenced guardrail terminal when the referenced guardrail did not comply with applicable federal and state regulations and statutes and had not been certified as such renders Trinity liable to Plaintiff in this matter as a matter of law.

- (e) Further, all the Defendants herein are liable in negligence for failing to exercise due care in the manufacture, distribution, marketing, testing, analysis, installation, sale, purchase and selection of the subject guardrail terminal, which negligence constitutes a proximate, legal cause of decedent's and Plaintiff's damages. Plaintiff also specifically alleges that the acts and omissions committed by the Defendants and/or Defendants' officers, employees and agents violated the laws and regulations of the State of Tennessee and the United States (including but not limited to the rules and regulations of the Federal Highway Administration), which violations constitute negligence *per se*. Each such wrongful act constitutes a proximate, legal cause of the decedent's and Plaintiff's injuries and damages.
- 68. Plaintiff further alleges that the wrongful conduct attributable to the Defendants on account of the actions and omissions by the Defendants' officers, employees and/or agents which is generally described herein violates the Tennessee Consumer Protection Act, T.C.A. §§ 47-18-104 (5) and (7) and that those violations also constitute a proximate, legal cause of decedent's and Plaintiff's damages.
- 69. Plaintiff specifically alleges that the conduct of Trinity as is generally described above was reckless and exhibited a willful disregard for the safety of the motoring public. Such

recklessness and willful disregard for safety constitutes a proximate, legal cause of Plaintiff's damages.

- 70. Plaintiff specifically alleges that the acts and omissions of Trinity and Trinity's officers, employees and agents described herein were fraudulent, reckless, and/or deliberately indifferent and constitute a proximate, legal cause of the decedent's and Plaintiff's damages, such that said conduct justifies an award of punitive damages in this case.
- 71. Plaintiff specifically alleges that the version of the ET-Plus guardrail terminal referenced herein and the subject guardrail terminal were not manufactured, marketed, distributed, sold or installed "in accordance with the plans and specifications" of the State of Tennessee within the meaning of T.C.A. § 12-4-503 because said guardrail terminal failed to comply with state and federal regulations and statutes governing such guardrail terminals; as has been stated previously, the failure of the referenced guardrail terminals, including the subject guardrail terminal, to comply with said regulations and statutes and the characteristics of the guardrail terminals outlined herein which were inconsistent with said regulations and statutes were a proximate cause of the subject guardrail terminal forming a spear, penetrating decedent Sabrena Carrier's passenger compartment, violently striking Sabrena Carrier, and causing her to sustain serious and fatal injuries, as well as Plaintiff's injuries and damages as are generally referenced herein.

DAMAGES

72. As a direct and proximate result of the individual and/or joint and several liability of the Defendants, whether their actions or omissions are negligent, negligent *per se*, willful and wanton, and/or grossly negligent, the Plaintiff avers that she is entitled to recover damages from

the Defendants for Sabrena Carrier's pain and suffering, loss of enjoyment of life, medical expenses, funeral expenses, loss of the pecuniary value of the life of Sabrena Carrier, losses in society and companionship, and all other damages and expenses allowed under Tennessee law.

- 73. Further, as a direct and proximate cause of the wrongful conduct attributable to Trinity as is generally described above, Trinity is liable to Plaintiff for punitive damages in the amount the trier of fact deems appropriate and just.
- 74. In addition, Plaintiff Sandra Lester respectfully requests restitution and damages on behalf of the decedent's minor son, A.R.C., for the loss of love, society, affection, and companionship of his mother, Sabrena Carrier.
- 75. In addition, Plaintiff Sandra Lester seeks damages for the loss of love, society, affection, and companionship of her daughter, Sabrena Carrier.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff sues the Defendants jointly and severally, for compensatory damages in an amount that the trier of fact deems just, not to exceed the sum of eight million dollars (\$8,000,000), as well as punitive damages against Defendant Trinity in the amount the trier of fact deems appropriate and just, not to exceed the greater of: (a) five percent (5%) of the gross revenue of Trinity and/or its related entities which manufactured, distributed, marketed and/or sold the subject version of the ET-Plus guardrail terminal during the relevant time period (2005 through 2009); or (b) five times the amount awarded by the jury for compensatory damages in this case. Further, Plaintiff moves for and requests that all costs of the Court and all discretionary costs, including but not limited to all expert fees, court reporter fees, exhibit expenses, deposition expenses, any other litigation expenses, and any and all other costs allowable by statute, common law, and/or pursuant to Rule 54 of the Tennessee Rules of Civil

Procedure, be taxed to the Defendants immediately upon entry of any judgment in this cause; Plaintiff moves for and requests all pre-judgment interest and post-judgment interest allowable by common law or statute as part of her relief requested herein; Plaintiff requests that a jury be impaneled to hear this cause; and Plaintiff requests such other, further relief as this Honorable Court deems appropriate.

Respectfully submitted this 28th day of September, 2012.

SANDRA LESTER, as mother and personal representative / administratrix of the Estate of Decedent SABRENA CARRIER, representative and grandmother of A.R.C., next of kin, beneficiary and minor solver Sabrena Carrier, Plaintiff,

 $\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{V}^{*}}$

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Attorneys for Plaintiff

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a true and exact copy of the foregoing has been served this 28th day of September, 2012, upon the parties in interest herein by first-class mail as follows:

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EXHIBIT A



