ARKANSAS CLAIMS COMMISSION

(501)682-1619 (501)682-2823 FAX

101 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE, SUITE 410 LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201-3823

arclaimscommission.arkansas.gov ascc.new.claims@arkansas.gov

> Arkansas State Claims Commission

> > JUN 1 2 2023

CLAIM FORM

Please note that all sections must be completed, or this form will be returned to you, which will delay the processing of your claim.

1. Claimant (If there are additional claimants, please fill out an additional form for each)

Mrs Bass (lementin	e	_		
(title/last name/first name	or company)	(email)		
(address)	(city)	(state)	(zip)	(primary phone)	
2. Claimant's Legal Counse	(If not represent	ted by an attorne	y, you may si	kip this section)	
(last name)	(first name	e)	(er	nail)	-
(address)	(city)	(state)	(zip)	(primary phone)	
Arkansas Bar Number:		If not licensed to plant the claim	oractice law ii s Commission	n Arkansas, please for more information.	i. i
3. State Agency Involved	AR				
(If this section is not comple agency or agencies involved claims against counties, cit	d must be state ager	ncies. The Claims (ommission h	Please note that the as no jurisdiction over	
4. Incident Date 3 -	29-2023	1		c	ale
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RECEIVED

5c. CHECK HERE if this claim involves damage to a motor vehicle.

5d. CHECK HERE if this claim involves damage to property other than a motor vehicle.

5e. Insurance Coverage

- If your property was covered by insurance on the date of the incident, you must provide a copy of the insurance declarations in effect at that time. This is not the same as your insurance card. You may obtain a copy of your insurance declarations from your insurer or insurance agent.

Π

-If you did NOT have insurance coverage in effect on your property on the date of the incident, CHECK HERE

5f. Additional Required Documents for Property Damage Claims

You must submit invoice(s) documenting repair costs OR three estimates for repair OR an explanation why this documentation cannot be provided.

6. If a state vehicle was involved, please provide the following information

(type of state vehicle involved) (license number) (driver)

7. If your claim involves personal injuries, please CHECK HERE

- All personal injury claims require a copy of your health insurance information in place at the time of the incident.

- If you did NOT have health insurance on the date of the incident, CHECK HERE \Box

8. Amount Sought: Gie 20-52.00 Firestone - 785.04

IMPORTANT

Please note that the Claims Commission staff is happy to answer questions about the claim process, but Claims Commission staff cannot give legal advice. For questions please contact us through email at ascc.new.claims@arkansas.gov or by phone at (501) 682-1619.

STOP!

The following section MUST be completed in the presence of a Notary Public.

The undersigned certifies that to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, this claim is not being presented for any improper purpose; this claim is warranted by existing law or by a non-frivolous argument for extending, modifying, or reversing existing law or for establishing new law; and the factual contentions have evidentiary support of, if specifically so identified, will likely have evidentiary support after a reasonable opportunity for further investigation or discovery.

Clementine Bass

Claimant

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

State of Arkansas County of Pulaski

On this the $\underline{9}$ day of $\underline{J}\underline{V}\underline{N}\underline{R}\underline{R}\underline{R}$, 2023 before me, the undersigned notary, personally appeared $\underline{Cemention}$ Respectively to me (or satisfactorily proven) to be the person whose name is subscribed to this instrument and acknowledged that he/she executed the same for the purposes therein contained.

In witness whereof I hereunto set my hand and official seal.

Mar E Diaz Nebarde Jones Signature of Notary Public My Commission Expires: 1/10/37

My Commission Expires:





Retail Invoice

361476 Emailed on 05/01/2023 Emailed to

Firestone since 1926, COMPLETE AUTO CARE"

Store# 285994 In: 04/26/23 03:25PM Out: 04/29/23 04:28PM

www.FirestoneCompleteAutoCare.com

Cust Status: Drop Off Appt	: No	DUPLICATE						
LITTLE ROO	CK-CHENAL	- 12320 CHENAL PKWY,	LITTLE ROCK	, AR. 7.2	211-2724 -	501.225.6300		
Service Advisor: 8 LEON		Wheel Lock:			Techni	cian: 20 JON		
Customer Details:		Alt. Auth. Na	ame & Phone:		Vehick	Details:		
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		Ν	N/A					
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					LIC #:	GE: 135,316		
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NEW TIRE WHEEL BALANCE LABO	R		7013632		1	12.99	12.99	
TPMS VALVE SERVICE KIT LABOR			7008190		1	3.20	3.20	
6-201 TPMS KIT			7013246		1	7.00	7.00	
7097782 ROAD HAZARD PROTECT	ION		7097782		1	36.15	36.15	
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COURTESY CHECK				08				
COURTESY CHECK			7046930	20TS	1	N/C	N/C	
FIRESTONE TIRE PACKAGE			2	08				296.33
012547 FIREHAWK INDY 500 BL 24 Warranty	5/45R19 98W	No Mileage	012547	20TN	1	240.99	240.99	
DOT# 2RLNJJD2822								
ARKANSAS TIRE FEE			7095745	20NN	1	3.00	3.00	
NEW TIRE WHEEL BALANCE LABO			7013632	20TS	1	12.99	12.99	
TPMS VALVE SERVICE KIT LABOR			7008190		1	3.20	3.20	
7097782 ROAD HAZARD PROTECT			7097782	20TN	1	36.15	36.15	
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						Sub-To		723.20
						Tax (8.6	625%)	61.84
	-					Total		\$785.04
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		2) 04/29/2023 02:15	PM 3	30.63 BAS	S, CLEMEN	ITINE IN PERS	SON	

Signature or Initials

Information on service warranty, maintenance, and safety can be located at https://www.firestonecompleteautocare.com/maintain/service-warranty-options/ Re-Printed On: 05/01/2023 08:33 Al Inv1_WP 11.14.2022.00 Retail Invoice 361476 Emailed on 05/01/2023 Emailed to



Cust Status: Drop Off

Appt: No

www.FirestoneCompleteAutoCare.com DUPLICATE INVOICE

LITTLE ROCK-CHENAL - 12320 CHENAL PKWY, LITTLE ROCK, AR. 72211-2724 - 501.225.6300

Information on tire warranty, maintenance, and safety can be located at https://www.firestonecompleteautocare.com/tires/warranty-options/ or by calling toll free 800-847-3272 to obtain a free printed copy



I have received the above goods and/or services. If this is a credit card purchase, I agree to pay and comply with my cardholder agreement with the issuer.

Customer Signature



HOW ARE WE DOING?

Tell us about your experience today! Complete a 4-minute survey for a chance to win one of ten \$50 gift cards each month! Visit www.FirestoneSurvey.com within 4 days and enter Code 285994-361476





From:	ASCC New Claims
То:	
Bcc:	"Kathryn Irby"
Subject:	Clementine Bass, Claim No. 231626 - deficient
Date:	Thursday, June 15, 2023 1:31:00 PM
Attachments:	Clementine Bass Claim 231626.pdf

Dear Ms. Bass,

Under Arkansas law and Commission rules, you have to provide the name of the specific state agency that you believe is responsible for the damage to your vehicle. "AR" is not a state agency. You may update the attached claim form or provide this information via email to me.

Thank you, Caitlin

Caitlin McDaniel

Administrative Specialist II Arkansas State Claims Commission 101 East Capitol Avenue, Suite 410 Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 (501) 682-1619

ARKANSAS CLAIMS COMMISSION

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CLAIM FORM

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1. Claimant (If there are additional claimants, please fill out an additional form for each)

Mrs Bass C	lementin	ne			
(title/last name/first name	or company)		(email)		
(address)	· (city)	(state)	(zip)	(primary phone)	
2. Claimant's Legal Counse	(If not represent	ted by an attorn	ey, you may si	kip this section)	
(last name)	(first name	e)	(er	nail)	-
(address)	(city)	(state)	(zip)	(primary phone)	- ,
Arkansas Bar Number:		If not licensed to contact the Clair	practice law in ns Commission	n Arkansas, please for more information.	4
3. State Agency Involved	AR				
(If this section is not comple agency or agencies involved claims against counties, citi	l must be state age	ncies. The Claims	Commission n	Please note that the as no jurisdiction over	
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5d. CHECK HERE if this claim involves damage to property other than a motor vehicle.

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(type of state vehicle involved) (license number) (driver)

7. If your claim involves personal injuries, please CHECK HERE

- All personal injury claims require a copy of your health insurance information in place at the time of the incident.

 \square

- If you did NOT have health insurance on the date of the incident, CHECK HERE \Box

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Clementine Bass

Claimant

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

State of Arkansas County of Pulaski

person whose name is subscribed to this instrument and acknowledged that he/she executed the same for the purposes therein contained.

In witness whereof I hereunto set my hand and official seal.

Ma E Dia Webarde Jorres Signature of Notary Public My Commission Expires: 1/10/33





Retail Invoice

361476 Emailed on 05/01/2023 Emailed to

since 1926 COMPLETE AUTO CARE"

Store# 285994 In: 04/26/23 03:25PM Out: 04/29/23 04:28PM

Cust Status: Drop Off

Appt: No

www.FirestoneCompleteAutoCare.com

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LITTLE ROCK-CHENAL	- 12320 CHENAL PKW	VY, LITTLE	ROCK	, AR. 72	211-2724 -	501.225.6300		
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		70	95745	20NN	1	3.00	3.00	
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KIT LABOR		70	008190	20TS	1	3.20	3.20	
		70	013246	20TN	1	7.00	7.00	
PROTECTION		70	97782	20TN	1	36.15	36.15	
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PROTECTION		70	97782	20TN	1	36.15	36.15	
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Information on service warranty, maintenance, and safety can be located at https://www.firestonecompleteautocare.com/maintain/service-warranty-options/ Re-Printed On: 05/01/2023 08:33 Al Inv1_WP 11.14.2022.00 Retail Invoice 361476 Emailed on 05/01/2023 Emailed to



Cust Status: Drop Off

Appt: No

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LITTLE ROCK-CHENAL - 12320 CHENAL PKWY, LITTLE ROCK, AR. 72211-2724 - 501.225.6300

www.FirestoneCompleteAutoCare.com

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I have received the above goods and/or services. If this is a credit card purchase, I agree to pay and comply with my cardholder agreement with the issuer.

Customer Signature



HOW ARE WE DOING?

Tell us about your experience today! Complete a 4-minute survey for a chance to win one of ten \$50 gift cards each month!

Visit www.FirestoneSurvey.com within 4 days and enter Code 285994-361476





 From:
 ASCC New Claims

 To:
 Image: Claim Section 2016/2016

 Subject:
 FW: Clementine Bass, Claim No. 231626 - deficient

 Date:
 Thursday, July 20, 2023 2:14:00 PM

 Attachments:
 Clementine Bass Claim 231626.pdf

Dear Ms. Bass,

Per our conversation, please see attached.

Thank you, Caitlin

Caitlin McDaniel Administrative Specialist II Arkansas State Claims Commission 101 East Capitol Avenue, Suite 410 Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 (501) 682-1619

From: ASCC New Claims Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2023 1:32 PM To: Subject: Clementine Bass, Claim No. 231626 - deficient

Dear Ms. Bass,

Under Arkansas law and Commission rules, you have to provide the name of the specific state agency that you believe is responsible for the damage to your vehicle. "AR" is not a state agency. You may update the attached claim form or provide this information via email to me.

Thank you, Caitlin

Caitlin McDaniel

Administrative Specialist II Arkansas State Claims Commission 101 East Capitol Avenue, Suite 410 Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 (501) 682-1619

From:	
То:	ASCC New Claims
Subject:	Re: Clementine Bass, Claim No. 231626 - deficient
Date:	Thursday, July 20, 2023 5:13:01 PM

Please be aware that a mistake was made on my incident report. (see below.). The responsibility was not ARKANSAS, but it should be AR.DOT. PLEASE CORRECT THIS MISTAKE AND REPLACE THE RESPONSIBLE PARTY TO AR.DOT. THANK YOU CLEMENTINE BASS

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 20, 2023, at 2:14 PM, ASCC New Claims <ASCC.New.Claims@arkansas.gov> wrote:

Dear Ms. Bass,

Per our conversation, please see attached.

Thank you, Caitlin

Caitlin McDaniel

Administrative Specialist II Arkansas State Claims Commission 101 East Capitol Avenue, Suite 410 Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 (501) 682-1619

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Thank you, Caitlin

Caitlin McDaniel Administrative Specialist II Arkansas State Claims Commission 101 East Capitol Avenue, Suite 410 Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 (501) 682-1619

<Clementine Bass Claim 231626.pdf>

From:	ASCC New Claims
То:	Davenport, Michelle L.; Sparks, Trella A.; Blakley, Sharon
Cc:	Kathryn Irby; "LaKeysha.Walker@ardot.gov"
Subject:	CLAIM: Clementine Bass v. ArDOT, Claim No. 231626
Date:	Thursday, July 27, 2023 11:44:00 AM
Attachments:	Clementine Bass ArDOT agency Itr .pdf
	Clementine Bass Claim 231626.pdf
	Clementine Bass Claim No. 231626 - deficient.msg
	FW Clementine Bass Claim No. 231626 - deficient.msg
	Re Clementine Bass Claim No. 231626 - deficient.msg

Please see attached. Contact Kathryn Irby with any questions.

Thank you, Caitlin

Caitlin McDaniel

Administrative Specialist II Arkansas State Claims Commission 101 East Capitol Avenue, Suite 410 Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 (501) 682-1619

ARKANSAS STATE CLAIMS COMMISSION

(501)682-1619 FAX (501)682-2823



KATHRYN IRBY DIRECTOR

101 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE SUITE 410 LITTLE ROCK, AR 72201-3823

July 27, 2023

Ms. Michelle Davenport Arkansas Department of Transportation Post Office Box 2261 Little Rock, Arkansas 72209

RE: *Clementine Bass v. Arkansas Department of Transportation* Claim No. 231626

Dear Ms. Davenport,

Enclosed please find a copy of the above-styled claim filed against the Arkansas Department of Transportation. Pursuant to the Arkansas Rules of Civil Procedure, as well as Claims Commission Rule 2.2, you have **thirty days from the date of service** in which to file a responsive pleading.

Your responsive pleading should include your agency number, fund code, appropriation code, and activity/section/unit/element that this claim should be charged against, if liability is admitted, or if the Claims Commission approves this claim for payment. This information is necessary even if your agency denies liability.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Irby

ES: cmcdaniel

cc: Clementine Bass, Claimant (w/o encl.) (via email)

Note to Claimant or Claimant's counsel: The Claims Commission copied you on this correspondence to provide you with confirmation that your claim has been processed and served upon the respondent agency.

(via email)

From:	ASCC New Claims
То:	
Bcc:	Kathryn Irby
Subject:	Clementine Bass v. ArDOT, Claim No. 231626
Date:	Thursday, July 27, 2023 11:44:00 AM
Attachments:	Clementine Bass ArDOT agency ltr .pdf

Dear Ms. Bass,

Attached please find a copy of the letter sent with your claim to the Arkansas Department of Transportation.

Thank you, Caitlin

Caitlin McDaniel

Administrative Specialist II Arkansas State Claims Commission 101 East Capitol Avenue, Suite 410 Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 (501) 682-1619

From:	Blakley, Sharon D.
То:	ASCC Pleadings
Cc:	<u>Wilkins, Jay D.</u>
Subject:	Bass v ARDOT Claim 231626 ANS-MTD
Date:	Wednesday, August 23, 2023 7:48:42 AM
Attachments:	image001.png
	Bass.231626(ANS-MTD)2023.08.23.pdf
	Bass.231626.cvr ltr ANS-MTD.2023.08.23.pdf

Please acknowledge receipt of the attached Answer & Motion to Dismiss for the referenced claim.

Sharon D. Blakley ARDOT - Legal Administrator (501) 569-2022 fax (501)569-2164 Sharon.Blakley@ardot.gov ArDOT Logo (email)



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ARDOT.gov | IDriveArkansas.com | Lorie H. Tudor, P.E., Director

LEGAL DIVISION | Jay D. Wilkins, Staff Attorney | Jay.Wilkins@ardot.gov 10324 Interstate 30 | P.O. Box 2261 | Little Rock, AR 72203-2261 | Phone: 501.569.2277 | Fax: 501.569.2164

August 23, 2023

(via email)

Ms. Kathryn Irby, Director Arkansas State Claims Commission 101 East Capitol Avenue, Suite 410 Little Rock, AR 72201-3823

Re: Clementine Bass vs. Arkansas Department of Transportation Claim No. 231626

Dear Ms. Irby:

Please find attached the Answer and Motion to Dismiss in the above-styled claim. Please confirm receipt at your earliest convenience.

NOTE TO CLAIMANT

Not a Final Decision: The attached is the Respondent's Response. This is not the final decision. The Arkansas State Claims Commission makes the final decision.

Questions? Comments? Please contact the Arkansas State Claims Commission at (501) 682-1619.

<u>Mailing address:</u> If you need to submit additional paperwork to the Claims Commission or if you wish to dispute ARDOT's answer or motion to dismiss, please do so in writing by regular U.S. Mail, addressed to: Arkansas State Claims Commission, 101 E Capitol Ave, # 410, Little Rock, AR 72201. (A written copy should be provided to the Arkansas Department of Transportation, Legal Division, P.O. Box 2261, Little Rock, AR 72203.)

<u>What To Do Next</u>: If you need to know what to do next or any other legal advice, please contact your own attorney. The undersigned attorney represents the Arkansas Department of Transportation and cannot provide the claimant with legal advice in this matter.

<u>Future Communication</u>: All communication with the Arkansas State Claims Commission or Arkansas Department of Transportation regarding your claim should be <u>in writing</u> so that there is a record of it. Please do not call the Arkansas Department of Transportation to argue the merits of your claim which will be decided by the Claims Commission. The undersigned attorney represents ARDOT—the opposing party—and cannot discuss the merits of your claim with you over the telephone.

Sincerely,

D. Wilkins

Jay D. Wilkins Staff Attorney, Arkansas Department of Transportation

JDW/sdb Enclosure

cc: Clementine Bass

BEFORE THE STATE CLAIMS COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS

CLEMENTINE BASS

CLAIMANT

V.

CLAIM NO. 231626

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION RESPONDENT

ANSWER AND MOTION TO DISMISS

COMES THE RESPONDENT, Arkansas Department of Transportation, by and through its Staff Attorney, Jay D. Wilkins, and for its Answer and Motion to Dismiss states the following:

1. The Respondent denies all allegations of the Complaint not admitted herein.

2. Respondent specifically denies negligence, and states that any damage the Claimant may have sustained may have resulted from the negligence of a third party. Claimant has not identified the location sufficiently for Respondent to determine if she was in a construction zone.

3. The Claimant's damage, if any, cannot be verified as having been caused by negligence of the Arkansas Department of Transportation or its employees. Claimant has not filed her complaint to include "a statement of facts sufficiently clear to identify the Claimant, the Respondent state agency or agencies, *the circumstances giving rise to the claim* and the amount of monetary damages sought" as is required under Rule 2.1 of the Arkansas State Claims Commission Rules and Regulations.

4. The State is not a no-fault insurer of the general public. Without any claim and proof of negligence on the part of the Respondent, the State should not be liable for Claimant's damages.

5. Affirmatively pleading, the Respondent states, that a hole or rut such as described by Claimant is impossible to predict. "There are almost 16,000 miles of State Highway in Arkansas. It is impossible to predict when and where a hole or rut, will develop, therefore encountering debris is a risk assumed by the public in general as a part of travel. Historically and legally, the Commission will not award damages caused by a hole or rut unless a Claimant can show some negligence on the part of the respondent. Such proof of negligence must generally include facts to indicate that the respondent had *prior* knowledge of the hole or rut, yet the respondent *failed to respond within a reasonable amount of time* to remove the debris." Claimant has not provided any such evidence, therefore the claim should be denied and dismissed.

6. A Claim for Negligence requires a duty, breach, damages, and causation. *Chambers v. Stern*, 347 Ark. 395, 406, 64 S.W.3d 737, 744 (2002); *Prosser and Keeton on Torts*, Ch. 5, § 30. Arkansas is a fact-pleadings state. Claimant has not stated facts sufficient to support a claim for these elements of negligence.

7. Because Claimant has failed to state a legally cognizable cause of action against the Respondent and has failed to state facts supporting an alleged cause of action, this matter should be denied and dismissed pursuant to Arkansas Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 12(b)(6).

WHEREFORE, the Respondent PRAYS for dismissal of the Complaint, for cost, and all proper relief.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED, ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

D. Wilkins By:

Jay D. Wilkins Staff Attorney ARDOT, Legal Division Arkansas Bar No. 2022067 P. O. Box 2261 Little Rock, AR 72203-2261 (501) 569-2277

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Jay D. Wilkins, certify that I have served the foregoing Answer and Motion to Dismiss upon the Claimant by mailing a true copy of same this 23rd of August, 2023 to:

Clementine Bass

Q.D. Wilkins

From:	Kathryn Irby on behalf of ASCC Pleadings
То:	"Wilkins, Jay D."
Cc:	"Blakley, Sharon"; Mika Tucker
Subject:	ORDER: Bass v. ArDOT, Claim No. 231626
Date:	Tuesday, September 26, 2023 1:49:00 PM
Attachments:	183Bass v. ArDOT.pdf

Ms. Bass and Mr. Wilkins, please see attached order entered by the Commission.

Thanks, Kathryn Irby

Arkansas State Claims Commission

101 East Capitol Avenue, Suite 410 Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 (501) 682-1619

BEFORE THE ARKANSAS STATE CLAIMS COMMISSION

CLEMENTINE BASS

CLAIMANT

V.

CLAIM NO. 231626

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

RESPONDENT

ORDER

Now before the Arkansas State Claims Commission (the "Commission") is the motion filed by the Arkansas Department of Transportation (the "Respondent") to dismiss the claim of Clementine Bass (the "Claimant"). Based upon a review of claim file, including Respondent's motion, and the law of the State of Arkansas, the Commission hereby finds as follows:

1. Claimant filed the instant claim, alleging that Claimant's tire was damaged when she heard a "loud bang."

2. Respondent filed a motion to dismiss, arguing, *inter alia*, that Claimant has failed to state a claim against Respondent upon which relief can be granted.

3. Claimant did not file a response.

4. In reviewing this motion to dismiss, the Commission must treat the facts alleged in the complaint as true and view them in a light most favorable to the Claimant. *See Hodges v. Lamora*, 337 Ark. 470, 989 S.W.2d 530 (1999). All reasonable inferences must be resolved in favor of the Claimant, and the complaint must be liberally construed. *See id*. However, the Claimant must allege facts, not mere conclusions. *Dockery v. Morgan*, 2011 Ark. 94 at *6, 380 S.W.3d 377, 382. The facts alleged in the complaint will be treated as true, but not "a plaintiff's theories, speculation, or statutory interpretation." *See id*. (citing *Hodges*, 337 Ark. 470, 989 S.W.2d 530 (1999)).

5. The Commission agrees with Respondent that dismissal of this claim is proper. Claimant did not allege any specific facts regarding Respondent. In the absence of any specific allegations against Respondent, the Commission must dismiss the claim. The fact that Claimant's vehicle was damaged is not, by itself, sufficient to demonstrate a claim against Respondent.

6. As such, Respondent's motion to dismiss is GRANTED, and Claimant's claim is DISMISSED pursuant to Ark. R. Civ. Proc. 12(b)(6) without prejudice.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Jorg Band

ARKANSAS STATE CLAIMS COMMISSION Courtney Baird

ARKANSAS STATE CLAIMS COMMISSION Paul Morris, Chair

the that

ARKANSAS STATE CLAIMS COMMISSION Sylvester Smith

DATE: September 22, 2023

Notice(s) which may apply to your claim

- (1) A party has forty (40) days from the date of this Order to file a Motion for Reconsideration or a Notice of Appeal with the Claims Commission. Ark. Code Ann. § 19-10-211(a)(1). If a Motion for Reconsideration is denied, that party then has twenty (20) days from the date of the denial of the Motion for Reconsideration to file a Notice of Appeal with the Claims Commission. Ark. Code Ann. § 19-10-211(a)(1)(B)(ii). A decision of the Claims Commission may only be appealed to the General Assembly. Ark. Code Ann. § 19-10-211(a)(3).
- (2) If a Claimant is awarded less than \$15,000.00 by the Claims Commission at hearing, that claim is held forty (40) days from the date of disposition before payment will be processed. *See* Ark. Code Ann. § 19-10-211(a). <u>Note</u>: This does not apply to agency admissions of liability and negotiated settlement agreements.
- (3) Awards or negotiated settlement agreements of \$15,000.00 or more are referred to the General Assembly for approval and authorization to pay. Ark. Code Ann. § 19-10-215(b).

From:ASCC New ClaimsTo:Image: Comparison of the state of

Dear Ms. Bass,

Per our conversation, please see attached.

Thank you, Caitlin

Caitlin McDaniel

Administrative Specialist II Arkansas State Claims Commission

101 East Capitol Avenue, Suite 410 Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 (501) 682-1619

BEFORE THE ARKANSAS STATE CLAIMS COMMISSION

CLEMENTINE BASS

CLAIMANT

V.

CLAIM NO. 231626

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

RESPONDENT

ORDER

Now before the Arkansas State Claims Commission (the "Commission") is the motion filed by the Arkansas Department of Transportation (the "Respondent") to dismiss the claim of Clementine Bass (the "Claimant"). Based upon a review of claim file, including Respondent's motion, and the law of the State of Arkansas, the Commission hereby finds as follows:

1. Claimant filed the instant claim, alleging that Claimant's tire was damaged when she heard a "loud bang."

2. Respondent filed a motion to dismiss, arguing, *inter alia*, that Claimant has failed to state a claim against Respondent upon which relief can be granted.

3. Claimant did not file a response.

4. In reviewing this motion to dismiss, the Commission must treat the facts alleged in the complaint as true and view them in a light most favorable to the Claimant. *See Hodges v. Lamora*, 337 Ark. 470, 989 S.W.2d 530 (1999). All reasonable inferences must be resolved in favor of the Claimant, and the complaint must be liberally construed. *See id*. However, the Claimant must allege facts, not mere conclusions. *Dockery v. Morgan*, 2011 Ark. 94 at *6, 380 S.W.3d 377, 382. The facts alleged in the complaint will be treated as true, but not "a plaintiff's theories, speculation, or statutory interpretation." *See id*. (citing *Hodges*, 337 Ark. 470, 989 S.W.2d 530 (1999)).

5. The Commission agrees with Respondent that dismissal of this claim is proper. Claimant did not allege any specific facts regarding Respondent. In the absence of any specific allegations against Respondent, the Commission must dismiss the claim. The fact that Claimant's vehicle was damaged is not, by itself, sufficient to demonstrate a claim against Respondent.

6. As such, Respondent's motion to dismiss is GRANTED, and Claimant's claim is DISMISSED pursuant to Ark. R. Civ. Proc. 12(b)(6) without prejudice.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Jorg Band

ARKANSAS STATE CLAIMS COMMISSION Courtney Baird

ARKANSAS STATE CLAIMS COMMISSION Paul Morris, Chair

the that

ARKANSAS STATE CLAIMS COMMISSION Sylvester Smith

DATE: September 22, 2023

Notice(s) which may apply to your claim

- (1) A party has forty (40) days from the date of this Order to file a Motion for Reconsideration or a Notice of Appeal with the Claims Commission. Ark. Code Ann. § 19-10-211(a)(1). If a Motion for Reconsideration is denied, that party then has twenty (20) days from the date of the denial of the Motion for Reconsideration to file a Notice of Appeal with the Claims Commission. Ark. Code Ann. § 19-10-211(a)(1)(B)(ii). A decision of the Claims Commission may only be appealed to the General Assembly. Ark. Code Ann. § 19-10-211(a)(3).
- (2) If a Claimant is awarded less than \$15,000.00 by the Claims Commission at hearing, that claim is held forty (40) days from the date of disposition before payment will be processed. *See* Ark. Code Ann. § 19-10-211(a). <u>Note</u>: This does not apply to agency admissions of liability and negotiated settlement agreements.
- (3) Awards or negotiated settlement agreements of \$15,000.00 or more are referred to the General Assembly for approval and authorization to pay. Ark. Code Ann. § 19-10-215(b).
| From: | ASCC New Claims |
|--------------|--|
| To: | |
| Subject: | FW: ORDER: Bass v. ArDOT, Claim No. 231626 |
| Date: | Tuesday, October 17, 2023 10:57:00 AM |
| Attachments: | <u>183Bass v. ArDOT.pdf</u> |

From: ASCC New Claims Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:41 AM

To:

Subject: ORDER: Bass v. ArDOT, Claim No. 231626

Dear Ms. Bass,

Per our conversation, please see attached.

Thank you, Caitlin

Caitlin McDaniel

Administrative Specialist II Arkansas State Claims Commission 101 East Capitol Avenue, Suite 410 Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 (501) 682-1619

	AFFIDAVIT	Arkansas State Claims Commission
The State of Arkansas)	OCT 262023
County of Pulaski) S.S.)	RECEIVED
I, Clementine Bass, of THAT:	Arkansas, MA	KE OATH AND SAY

- I am asking The Arkansas State Claims Commission to reconsider my claim that was sent to the Arkansas Claims Commission for tire damage to my front right tire. The reference number is 231626.
- This Affidavit is asking the Arkansas Claims Commission to reconsider their decision to dismiss the claim for damage to my tire on April 26, 2023 on 530 E Memphis Exit. The specific facts are:

While driving another vehicle swerved to get to the Memphis Exit, and I move slightly to the right to avoid an accident. I was not aware that a very large pothole was on the right of the street. When I moved to the right there was a loud bang and my car indicated the front right tire was disabled. As soon as I could, I drove away from the roadside to avoid the steady traffic behind me. I called the State Highway Department and informed them of the incident and Roadside Assistance. A State Police Officer came to inquire what happened, and I explained what happened and asked her about the damage done to my tire. She informed me there was a hole in my right front tire. Roadside Assistance came after minutes had passed, and the car was loaded and taken to Firestone on Chenal Pkwy for repair.

I failed to submit a Motion for Reconsideration with the Claims Commission Ark. Code Ann.19-10-211(a)(1). Instead the incident was reported to the State Highway Department and eventually ArDOT. After visiting the Highway Department, I was given a phone number to call, and I did not realize a response was needed. I do not recall receiving any mail requesting a response or a phone call after my report was sent. I am requesting reconsideration from the Commission to dismiss the decision made to dismiss the claim I sent in. I was not aware of the proper procedure and I did not realize this was a legal issue. I have called, visited, and sent written communication that I thought was the proper procedure. I spoke with personnel by phone and I was informed I could not receive any information to settle the claim. I did not know where to come to settle the matter, I thought the claim form and the picture of the tire was my only responsibility.

Page 1 of 2

- 3. I am requesting that the Arkansas State Claims Commission to please re-consider the motion to dismiss my claim, and view the incident in a light most favorable to me, (Claimant). Please consider this incident not to be liberally construed. My response is not an allegation that will place anyone at fault, it was an incident that happened. I was not traveling at a high rate of speed, and I did not expect the incident. I purposedly considered the other driver's maneuver to reach the exit in front of me. Firestone at Chenal Pkwy informed me the tire was severely damaged and it could not be repaired util the next day. Other inspections had to be considered because of the severity of the tire. My son brought me home and a friend provided transportation from my home to Firestone the next day. I waited several hours, because the repair was not complete. The repair cost was \$785.04. Your consideration of my unfortunate incident is appreciated.
- 4. I can be reached at and my phone number is if further information is needed or requested. The picture of the tire is encrypted below.

5.	
STATE OF ARKANSAS	
COUNTY OF PULASKI	
SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME, on the <u>A</u> day of <u>OLOBY</u> , <u>2023</u> OREY F TAY Spirature <u>MMM</u> J. Add PUBLIC *12392248 NOTARY PUBLIC *12392248 NOTARY PUBLIC *12392248 NOTARY PUBLIC	<u>Clementère Bass</u> (Signature) Clementine Bass

From:	Kathryn Irby
To:	Wilkins, Jay D.
Cc:	Blakley, Sharon
Subject:	HEARING SCHEDULED: Bass v. ArDOT, Claim No. 231626
Date:	Wednesday, November 29, 2023 11:48:00 AM
Attachments:	Bass v. ArDOT, 231626 hearing letter (Resp"s amended MTD).pdf Bass motion for reconsideration.pdf

Mrs. Bass and Mr. Wilkins, please see attached hearing letter and Zoom invitation.

Thanks, Kathryn Irby

Kathryn Irby Arkansas State Claims Commission 101 East Capitol Avenue, Suite 410 Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 (501) 682-2822

ARKANSAS STATE CLAIMS COMMISSION

(501) 682-1619 FAX (501) 682-2823



KATHRYN IRBY DIRECTOR

101 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE SUITE 410 LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201-3823

November 29, 2023

Mrs. Clementine Bass

(via email and US Mail)

Mr. Jay D. Wilkins Arkansas Department of Transportation Post Office Box 2261 Little Rock, Arkansas 72203 (via email)

RE: *Clementine Bass v. Arkansas Department of Transportation* Claim No. 231626

Dear Mrs. Bass and Mr. Wilkins,

The Commission has scheduled a hearing on Mrs. Bass' motion for reconsideration for **Thursday, February 22, 2024**, beginning at 9:00 a.m. All parties will attend via Zoom. The Zoom invitation is enclosed.

As this is a motion hearing, no prehearing materials are requested by the Commission.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Irby

ES: kmirby

The Claims Commission is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Claims Commission -- hearings Time: Feb 22, 2024 08:30 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86739089258?pwd=ci9zNXNBRk02NE10UHNBOXMzK2RwUT09

Meeting ID: 867 3908 9258 Passcode: LePP9w

Dial by your location • +1 646 931 3860 US • +1 929 436 2866 US (New York) • +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC) • +1 305 224 1968 US • +1 309 205 3325 US • +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) • +1 360 209 5623 US • +1 386 347 5053 US • +1 507 473 4847 US • +1 564 217 2000 US • +1 669 444 9171 US • +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose) • +1 689 278 1000 US • +1 719 359 4580 US • +1 253 205 0468 US • +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma) • +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 867 3908 9258 Passcode: 041564

Find your local number: https://us06web.zoom.us/u/kfrA8m4pZ

This is complete.

From: Kathryn Irby <Kathryn.Irby@arkansas.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 29, 2023 11:50 AM
To: Misty Scott <Misty.Scott@arkansas.gov>
Subject: please mail today -- Bass

Please mail the attachment to Mrs. Bass at the address on the letter and upload confirmation of mailing to the database. Thanks!

BEFORE THE ARKANSAS STATE CLAIMS COMMISSION

CLEMENTINE BASS

CLAIMANT

V.

CLAIM NO. 231626

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORATION

RESPONDENT

ORDER

Now before the Arkansas State Claims Commission (the "Commission") is the motion filed by Clementine Bass (the "Claimant") seeking reconsideration of the Commission's September 22, 2023, decision dismissing Claimant's claim against the Arkansas Department of Transportation (the "Respondent"). At the hearing held on February 22, 2024, Claimant appeared *pro se*, and Jay D. Wilkins appeared on behalf of Respondent. Based upon a review of the claim file, including Claimant's motion, and the law of the State of Arkansas, the Commission hereby unanimously finds as follows:

1. Claimant filed the instant claim, alleging that Claimant's vehicle was damaged by a pothole.

2. Respondent filed a motion to dismiss, which was granted by the Commission on September 22, 2023.

3. On October 26, 2023, Claimant filed the instant motion for reconsideration.

4. Respondent did not respond to the motion.

5. At the hearing, upon a question from a commissioner, Claimant stated she does not believe that Respondent knew about the pothole that damaged her vehicle before she hit the pothole.

6. In analyzing a motion for reconsideration, Rule 7.1 of the Commission Rules and Regulations states that motions for reconsideration "will only be entertained if they set forth new or additional evidence which was not [previously] available"

7. The Commission finds that the motion does not set forth new or additional evidence not previously available. In order to prevail on a claim for damage caused by a pothole, a claimant must state facts to demonstrate that Respondent knew or should have known about the pothole and that Respondent failed to repair it in a reasonable time.

As such, Claimant's motion for reconsideration is DENIED, and the September 22,
 2023, Commission order remains in effect.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Servy C. Kinslow

ARKANSAS STATE CLAIMS COMMISSION Henry Kinslow

ARKANSAS STATE CLAIMS COMMISSION Paul Morris, Chair

fter That

ARKANSAS STATE CLAIMS COMMISSION Sylvester Smith

DATE: February 27, 2024

Notice(s) which may apply to your claim

- (1) A party has forty (40) days from the date of this Order to file a Motion for Reconsideration or a Notice of Appeal with the Claims Commission. Ark. Code Ann. § 19-10-211(b). If a Motion for Reconsideration is denied, that party then has twenty (20) days from the date of the denial of the Motion for Reconsideration to file a Notice of Appeal with the Claims Commission. Ark. Code Ann. § 19-10-211(b)(3). A decision of the Claims Commission may only be appealed to the General Assembly. Ark. Code Ann. § 19-10-211(a).
- (2) If a Claimant is awarded less than \$15,000.00 by the Claims Commission at hearing, that claim is held forty (40) days from the date of disposition before payment will be processed. *See* Ark. Code Ann. § 19-10-211(b). <u>Note</u>: This does not apply to agency admissions of liability and negotiated settlement agreements.
- (3) Awards or negotiated settlement agreements of \$15,000.00 or more are referred to the General Assembly for approval and authorization to pay. Ark. Code Ann. § 19-10-215(b).

<u>ilkins, Jay D.</u>
laim No. 231626
2024 2:44:00 PM
<u>order ltr.pdf</u> df

Ms. Bass and Mr. Wilkins, please see attached correspondence and order.

Thanks, Kathryn Irby

Arkansas State Claims Commission

101 East Capitol Avenue, Suite 410 Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 (501) 682-1619

ARKANSAS STATE CLAIMS COMMISSION

(501) 682-1619 FAX (501) 682-2823



KATHRYN IRBY DIRECTOR

101 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE SUITE 410 LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201-3823

February 28, 2024

Ms. Clementine Bass

(via email and U.S. Mail)

Mr. Jay D. Wilkins Arkansas Department of Transportation Post Office Box 2261 Little Rock, Arkansas 72203

RE: *Clementine Bass v. Arkansas Department of Transportation* Claim No. 231626

Dear Ms. Bass and Mr. Wilkins:

Please see attached order entered by the Commission.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Irby

ES: kmirby

(via email)

Completed

From: Kathryn Irby <Kathryn.Irby@arkansas.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 2:46 PM
To: SaBreana Hyche <SaBreana.Hyche@arkansas.gov>
Subject: please mail today -- Bass

Please mail the two attachments to Ms. Bass at the address on the letter and upload confirmation of mailing to the database. Thank you!

February 29, 2024

Arkansas State Claims Commission

MAR 0 5 2024

RECEIVED

Kathryn Irby

cc: Jay D. Wilkins,

Sharon Blakley

Arkansas State Claims Commission

101 East Capitol Avenue, Suite 410

Little Rock, AR 72201-3823

Re: Arkansas State Claims Commission

Claimant- Clementine Bass- (231626)



Ms. Irby:

I received your correspondence and Order (Bass v. ArDOT Claim Number-231626) on February 28, 2024, via email. I am responding to the response I received from the Commission.

The commission analyzed a motion for reconsideration after I filed a motion referencing the September 22, 2023, decision. On October 26, 2023, I filed a motion for reconsideration and the motion for reconsideration and my request was granted with a ZOOM Call on February 22, 2024.

Rule 7.1 of the Commission Rules and Regulations states the motions for reconsideration "will only be entertained if (they) set forth new or additional evidence which was not previously available..."

I am respectfully requesting reconsideration of your decision to Deny my claim that remains in effect. I request reconsideration due to the following:

- 1. I informed the committee I retraced my path and found many potholes that were present at that section I 30 East beside the very deep pothole that I swerved in to, and completely inflate my right front tire.
- 2. I stated the Respondent could not know about the potholes because there were innumerable potholes along that path of the highway. Obviously, the department could not know about all the potholes in the city, unless the location is reported to the authorities.

- 3. repaired in a timely and responsible manner. Potholes are all over the city of Little Rock, and many have not been repaired.
- 4. On February 22nd, I informed the committee a State Police Officer observed the tire and advised me to wait for a tow, and she would be checking on me while I waited.
- 5. The committee was informed that the insurance company paid for towing only. I had to pay for the tire, which was not previously asked or discussed. The car was examined for two days due to the severe damage done to the tire.
- 6. I informed the committee I heard a loud boom, and I thought I had been shot. This was not discussed or indicated in the reconsideration claim.
- 7. I informed the committee that this should be a responsibility of the Transportation Department to avoid other citizens from experiencing what I experienced while attempting to drive safely along Arkansas Highways.
- 8. I informed the committee that the citizens should be aware of the procedure to report incidents when they are not aware. It should not be a mystery as to how claims should be reported.

I am a resident of Pulaski County and Arkansas; I am a law-abiding citizen, and I am not a menace to society. I have indicated new and additional evidence that was not previously available or discussed in the February 22, 2024, meeting. I have stated facts that demonstrate that you did not previously know or should have known. I expect potholes, animal carcasses and any potential hazard along Pulaski County Highways to be repaired in a timely manner. Citizens should not have to monitor ArDOT responsibilities. It is my expectation that citizens drive safely and responsibility while driving in Pulaski County. Hopefully, it is your expectation that citizens will drive and feel safe as we strive to save other citizens' lives as well as our own. Your consideration of my rebuttal is appreciated.

Regards,

Clementine Bass

Clementine Bass

From:	Misty Scott
То:	<u>Wilkins, Jay D.</u>
Cc:	Blakley, Sharon; ASCC Pleadings; Kathryn Irby
Subject:	CORR: Clementine Bass v. ADOT, Claim No. 231626
Date:	Thursday, March 7, 2024 1:15:00 PM
Attachments:	bass-response to m4r order.pdf

Mr. Wilkins and Ms. Blakely:

Please see attached. Ms. Bass attempted to send ARDOT a copy of the response to order that was sent on 2/28/24. Ms. Bass sent your copy to our address as well. Contact Kathryn Irby with any questions.

Thank you,

Místy

Misty Scott Arkansas State Claims Commission

From:	Misty Scott on behalf of ASCC Pleadings
То:	
Cc:	ASCC Pleadings; Kathryn Irby
Subject:	CORR: Clementine Bass v. ADOT, Claim No. 231626
Date:	Monday, March 11, 2024 2:25:33 PM
Attachments:	Clementine Bass v. ADOT.pdf

Ms. Bass:

Please see attached. Contact Kathryn Irby with any questions.

Thank you,

Místy

Misty Scott Arkansas State Claims Commission

ARKANSAS STATE CLAIMS COMMISSION

(501) 682-1619 FAX (501) 682-2823



KATHRYN IRBY DIRECTOR

101 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE SUITE 410 LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201-3823

March 11, 2024

Ms. Clementine Bass

(via email and U.S. Mail)

RE: Clementine Bass v. Arkansas Department of Transportation Claim No. 231626

Dear Ms. Bass,

The Commission received the enclosed letter to you in response to its February 27, 2024, order. If you disagree with the Commission's order, your option at this point is to file a notice of appeal. See Ark. Code Ann. § 19-10-211. Please note in the text box at the bottom of the Commission's order the time limits for filing such a notice.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Irby

ES: msscott

March 18, 2024

Kathryn Irby

cc: Jay D. Wilkins, Sharon Blakley

Arkansas State Claims Commission

101 East Capitol Avenue, Suite 410

Little Rock, AR 72201-3823

Re: NOTICE OF APPEAL

Clementine Bass- (231626)



Ms. irby:

Thank you for your response to the notice of appeal I sent to the Arkansas Department of Transportation. I disagree with the Commission's Order, and I accept the option to file a notice of appeal. (Ark. Code Ann. § 19-10 -211. After reading the Ark. Code, I could not locate § 19 – 10- 211, hopefully my request will meet the specifications to appeal.

The time limit for filing this notice was not found, therefore I am sending this appeal as soon as possible. Again, I disagree with your order, therefore I am respectively requesting reconsideration of your decision considering the Commission Rules and Regulations (Rule 7.10). Rule 7.10 of the Commission Rules and Regulations states the motions for reconsideration "will only be entertained if (they) set forth new or additional evidence which was not previously available. I set forth new evidence as listed below.

- 1. I informed the committee I retraced my path and observed numerous potholes that were present at the section of I 30 East. The potholes were along the very deep pothole that I swerved into and completely inflated my right front tire.
- 2. The Arkansas Highway Department is responsible for maintaining safe travel for all travelers. Potholes are all over the city of Little Rock, and many have not been repaired.
- 3. On February 22nd, I informed the committee a State Police Officer observed the tire and advised me to wait for a tow, and she would be checking on me while I waited.
- 4. The committee was informed the insurance company paid for towing only. I had to pay for the tire, which was not previously asked or discussed. The car was examined for

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two days due to the severe damage done to the tire which was an inconvenience for me.

- 5. I informed the committee I heard a loud boom, and I thought I had been shot. This was not discussed or indicated in the reconsideration claim.
- 6. I informed the committee that this should be the responsibility of the Transportation Department, which would help other citizens from experiencing what I experienced while attempting to drive safely along the expressway.
- 7. I informed the committee that citizens should be made aware of the procedure to report incidents. Citizens are not aware of codes, guidelines, and procedures when incidents occur. I believe if citizens were knowledgeable, more potholes etc. could be reported, and driving in Pulaski County would be less hazardous.

I am a resident of Pulaski County and Arkansas; I am a law-abiding citizen. I have indicated new and additional evidence that was not previously available or discussed in the February 22, 2024, meeting. I have stated facts that you did not previously know or should have known. I expect potholes, animal carcasses and any potential hazard along Pulaski County Highways to be repaired and removed in a timely manner. Citizens should not have to monitor ArDOT responsibilities. Hopefully, citizens will strive to always drive safely and responsibly while traveling. Hopefully, as we strive to save our life and other citizens' life, we will avoid an incident such as this from happening again. Your consideration of this appeal is appreciated.

Cordially,

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Clementine Bass