

Tesla employee fired and sued by Elon Musk takes dispute to SEC: report

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The Tesla employee who has been engaged in a corporate legal dispute with Chief Executive Elon Musk has formally filed a whistleblower tip with the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Washington Post reported Wednesday, citing his attorney. Martin Tripp, who Musk fired last month and then sued for allegedly hacking the company's computer systems, leaking information to the press and stealing secrets, has told the SEC that Tesla had pushed for potentially damaging measures in order to meet production goals, including allegedly placing batteries with puncture holes into vehicles and reusing scrapped parts, the paper reported. Tripp also claimed that Tesla inflated weekly numbers by up to 44%. Tesla did not return a request for comment made by the newspaper. Tesla shares were down 1.1% Wednesday, but are up 2.6% in 2018, while the S&P 500 SPX, +0.60% has gained 3.8%.