



**Safety Research & Strategies, Inc.**  
340 Anawan Street / Suite 200  
Rehoboth, MA 02769  
Ph. 508-252-2333, Fax 508-252-3137  
[www.safetyresearch.net](http://www.safetyresearch.net)

May 11, 2005

Ms. Susan M. Cischke  
Vice President of Environmental and Safety Engineering  
Automotive Safety Office  
Ford Motor Company  
330 Town Center Drive  
Dearborn, MI 48126

RE: Tire Aging

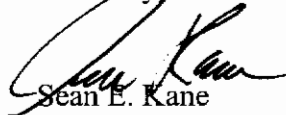
Dear Ms. Cischke:

I am writing to commend Ford Motor Company for adding tire age guidelines to your tire safety web page and 2006 owner's manuals. Ford's contributions in this area are significant and will undoubtedly help policy-makers and the public better understand the dangers associated with tire age degradation.

As you may know, we have been providing information to NHTSA regarding our findings related to crashes caused by aged tire failures and information from worldwide sources related to this issue. In our November 5, 2004 submission to (Docket 15400) we requested the agency issue a "Consumer Advisory" alerting the public to the dangers of aged tires. The issuance of an advisory about the increased risks associated with aged tires could have a significant effect toward reducing failures and subsequent crashes as it would likely become a guideline for tire dealers and technicians who routinely advise consumers about tire safety.

Now that Ford has provided guidelines on tire aging, it is our hope that your company would be willing to support a Consumer Advisory. By doing so the effectiveness of Ford's recommendations could dramatically increase and reach a much wider audience than those who find the tire age section of Ford's tire safety web page or owner's manual. We are also making this same request of other automakers, particularly those who also provide similar tire age warnings. However, Ford's support of a Consumer Advisory may have a greater effect because of the well-known and important work your company has done on tire aging.

Sincerely,



Sean E. Kane

CC: Dr. Keith Brewer, Director, NHTSA Office of Crash Avoidance Standards