

## Safety Research & Strategies, Inc.

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VIA FACSIMILE

May 25, 2005

Mr. Stephan J. Speth Vehicle Compliance & Safety Affairs DaimlerChrysler Corporation 800 Chrysler Drive Auburn Hills, MI 48326-2757

RE: Tire Aging

Dear Mr. Speth:

I am writing to commend DaimlerChrysler for providing tire age guidelines to your customers.

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 DaimlerChrysler 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 your company's recommendations could dramatically increase and reach a much wider audience than those who find the information on a 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.

Sincerely,

∽Sean E. Kane