

July 14, 2003

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Ford Motor Company
Customer Assistance Center
300 Renaissance Center
PO Box 43360
Detroit, MI 48243

10032455

Dear Sirs,

On a recent cross country trip I experienced what could have been a deadly occurrence, due, I believe to faulty design. I was pulling a trailer from New York to the west coast, 1/2 way there when on the freeway the brake light came on. I mistook it for meaning a brake lamp was out, and continued for 60 or more miles and only when it was time to get fuel, did I discover there was no brake pedal left. Thankfully, the trailer's brakes brought us to a stop. We found the rubber hydraulic hose near the rear differential had been chaffing against the emergency brake cable, and eventually sprung a leak and drained the brake fluid. It looks like this had to happen eventually given the abrasive nature of the cable sheathing, the softness of the rubber coating and positioning where wind could move the two separately and against each other. I have kept the rubber hose in case it would be of help. There was not a Ford Dealer in the town where this happened so I was unable to have Ford serving done. Because of rust and corrosion the metallic lines needed replacing as well. I have enclosed a copy of the receipt from the mechanic; I was actually charged an additional \$20 because I had to pay with my credit card.

I would be happy to answer any questions or help in any way that time and convenience allows. Please contact me at the address or phone numbers below.

Thank You

Staten Island, NY

Home

Mobile

NHTSA

US Dept of Transportation

400 Seventh Street

Washington, DC 20590

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2003
7/23/03

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