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February 15, 2005

NHTSA DOT Office of Defect and Investigation  
400 7th Street SW  
Washington DC 20590

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to request your assistance in a matter of public safety. I am the owner of a 1999 Kia Sephia. In December 2004, I heard an awful and immediate sound coming from my rear brakes.

I located the nearest service station, (see enclosed invoice) and was told (and shown) 3 of the 4 pads had fallen off my shoes. The pads themselves were in excellent condition, but the glue that held them to the shoe had disintegrated. This not only ruined the drums, but I was told this is a severe safety issue and I could have been in an accident. The employee at Belle Tire told me he has seen this in several Kia's and I should see if they were under recall.

In the meantime, I discussed this matter with a few family members/friends who also drive Kia's and found that they too had paid to remedy the same safety hazard. Also, a random search looking for Kia recalls on the internet led me to a Kia forum where a Sephia owner in another state suffered the same loss.

I called Kia and although there are brake recalls on several of the Kia models, the Sephia is not included. I have discussed this issue with more than one mechanic and been told that pads should not come unglued from the shoes, let alone 3 of the 4 on one shoe.

I am requesting a full-fledged investigation be launched. I no longer am in possession of the shoes; however, I have eye witnesses, Certified Mechanics, that can attest to their condition. It is my stance that this is an epidemic that must be cured.

If I may be of more assistance, please feel free to contact me. I would appreciate being informed on where this is heading. If this is not the correct office to address this issue, please direct me to the proper authorities. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely yours,

[Redacted signature block]

Wyoming MI

[Redacted address block]

Enc. Belle Tire Invoice 10414241

Cc: Kia Motors America, Inc.  
PO Box 52410  
Irvine CA 92619-2410

*Jason*  
2/1/05

**THE ATTACHMENTS TO THIS  
DOCUMENT HAVE BEEN REMOVED  
TO PROTECT UNWARRANTED  
INVASION OF PERSONAL PRIVACY  
PURSUANT TO EXEMPTION 6 OF  
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION  
ACT (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(6).**