

10120370

Carlisle, PA
April 13, 2005

National Highway Transportation Safety Association
400 7th St., S.W.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear NHTSA:

Following an incident that happened to me on March 31, 2005, I am writing to complain about the Ford Motor Company's decision to issue only an extended-warranty warning rather than a recall concerning potential failure of the fuel pump in its 2000 and 2001 Focus cars.

I was driving alone in my 2001 ZX3 Focus in early evening rush hour traffic traveling almost bumper to bumper about 70 mph on I-20 just northwest of Columbia, South Carolina, several hundred miles from my home. My fuel pump did indeed fail, causing an immediate stall-out. There was barely enough of a shoulder on I-20 to pull over, with cars whizzing past me within inches. I was able to restart the car for a couple of seconds, stuttering the while, just enough to get it off onto a ramp that was fortunately right ahead, and then sat there in my dead car for quite a while till an SC-DOT truck driver pulled up and called me a tow truck, which towed me to the nearest Ford dealer several miles away, and then to an expensive nearby motel for the unexpected overnight.

I am convinced that if I had not happened to be in the right lane of I-20 when the stall occurred, it would have caused a serious and potentially fatal accident. As it was, I was unnecessarily put to considerable delay and expense, not to mention danger.

I strongly urge you to immediately compel the Ford Motor Company to change its mere warning about this known potential fuel-pump failure into a recall with free replacement of the part *before* it fails, in order to save other drivers of 2000 and 2001 Focuses from having to face any situation similar to — or perhaps even worse than — my own.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

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