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To: NHTSA, U.S. Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street
Washington D.C. 20590

From: [Redacted]
Orange Park, Florida
Tel. [Redacted]
E-mail [Redacted]

2005 SEP 28 AM 4: 24

Date: September 16, 2005

Re: 1996 Ford Taurus Wagon, Spare tire blow-outs

Dear NHTSA Associate

I own a 1996 Ford Taurus Wagon with 117,000 miles driven. My concern is with the "donut" spare tire, stored in the side compartment. Two years ago it was the first time the spare tire exploded sitting in the compartment. I had to replace it with a used spare tire, since I was unable to locate a new spare, I got compensated for it by the UniRoyal Tire company. I put this tire in my second car, a Ford Sedan as the spare. The newer used spare "donut" tire from the Ford Sedan I put in the side compartment of my 1996 Ford Taurus Wagon, this spare tire also exploded in the compartment. This is the second time this has happened, I was very fortunate that we were not on the road and had to rely on it, or even worse had it mounted and a serious blow-out while driving, considering the unreliable and unsafe condition of these tires. I have been able to find another "donut" spare tire and UniRoyal will again compensate me for the payment but, I will not again put it in the side compartment, I'm afraid it will blow again.
It is hot in Florida and my car is always parked in the driveway and the excessive heat has most likely caused the blow-ups, however, spare tires stored or mounted must be reliable and not create the potential for serious accidents on or off the road. We were fortunate but the very questionable safety standard of these tires could result in serious accidents. Another bad thing is that neither Ford or Uniroyal could provide me with another spare of that size, they don't carry them anymore in stock.
I have the blown tire and I have taken pictures. I will be happy to supply both. I'm bringing this to your attention because I don't want people to get hurt. If extreme heat, which is normal in Florida, causes these blow-outs, then the Ford Motor Company and the tire manufacturer should take measures to correct this safety hazard. Hoping to hear from you

Sincerely

[Redacted Signature]

Cc: Ford Motor Company

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9/29/05