



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

October 19, 2005

The Honorable Mark Dayton
United States Senator
Federal Building

Fort Snelling, MN

NVS-216 aae
Ref. No. 10139882

Dear Senator Dayton:

Thank you for your correspondence dated September 20 on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED] wrote concerning a problem he encountered with a Michelin Cross Terrain, size P235/70R16, tire equipped on his model year 2004 Ford Explorer vehicle. Your correspondence was received on October 6. We have searched our database and were unable to locate any previous correspondence from [REDACTED] which is referenced in his e-mail to you.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is the Federal agency responsible for improving safety on our Nation's highways. We are authorized to order manufacturers to recall and repair vehicles or items of motor vehicle equipment when our investigations indicate that they contain serious safety defects in their design, construction, or performance. In order for the agency to initiate an investigation, we look carefully at the body of consumer complaints and other available data to determine whether a defect may exist. We cannot act on isolated problems or resolve disputes between individual owners, dealers, or manufacturers.

We appreciate the report you provided on behalf of [REDACTED]. Reports from motorists are a very important source of information for us. Each report is analyzed and entered into a database to help us determine whether an investigation into a possible safety defect is warranted.

NHTSA's Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) has reviewed its database in effort to identify whether a safety defect trend exists with the Michelin North America, Inc., Cross Terrain tire line. At this time, there is insufficient evidence to warrant opening a safety defect investigation. The information you provided on behalf of [REDACTED] has been entered into our database. ODI will continue to monitor this issue and take future action as appropriate.



DOT AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE
888-DASH-2-DOT
888-327-4238

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The Honorable Mark Dayton

I hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions, please have your staff contact me or Mr. Ronald L. Medford, Senior Associate Administrator for Vehicle Safety, at (202) 366-1810.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael W. Harrington". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "H" and a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael W. Harrington
Director of External Affairs

cc: Washington Office

OCT 19 2005

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United States Senator
Federal Building
1 Federal Drive, Suite 298
Fort Snelling, MN 55111

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Sincerely yours,

Original Signed By

Michael W. Harrington
Director of External Affairs

cc: Washington Office

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