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ENGINEERING SECRETARIAT

2005 OCT -6 A 8:47

Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20590

Sept. 27, 2005

Dear Sir,

I am an owner of a 2000 Dodge Durango 4x4. As a mortgage originator I travel roads that have steep grades and curvy. Recently as I traveled one of these roads, my Durango started making a terrible sound and at first I thought that I had a flat tire. After stopping and checking, I realize that this was not the problem. I continued on and as I drove I discovered the noise was worst whenever I turned to the left. Taking it slowly I was able to get back home, where I had a mechanic take a look at it. When he removed the wheel to look at it, the hub fell off in his hands in several pieces. He told me that the wheel was just about to fall off of the vehicle that would have resulted in the vehicle to be out of control at that time.

I have tried to get reimbursed for this part by Daimler Chrysler feeling that it is a defective part and could result in an accident. At first I thought that perhaps that it had something to do with the recall that I had back in January 2005; but I have been informed by the dealership that this is not true.

I currently own the Dodge Durango and also own a Chrysler LeBaron, so as you can see I do like the Dodge product and probably would consider buying a Dodge in the future however I am sincerely concerned with the safety. Because of the terrain that I travel, this is the reason that I own a 4x4 vehicle and I depend on the safety of this vehicle on a daily basis.

I feel like this should be investigated and I wonder how many more people have been effected by this part. I would appreciate it if you would respond to my letter and perhaps let me know how I would go about getting reimbursed for something that could have caused my lost of life or perhaps the lost of life for someone else. The amount that I have spent is probably considered minimal but how do you put a price on my life if this would have completely fallen off? Any help concerning this matter would be greatly appreciated.

A copy of this bill is enclosed for your information.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

2005 OCT 11 10:10 AM
NHTSA

[Redacted address]
Holt, IN

[Redacted address]

Maria
10/12/05

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