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November 18, 2005

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, US Department of Transportation  
Office of Defects Investigations  
400 7<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Triumph Motorcycles America Limited  
385 Walt Sanders Memorial Drive, Suite 100  
Newnan, GA 30265

RE: Safety Defect

Gentlemen:

I would like to bring to your attention a safety defect in my new 2005 Triumph Bonneville T-100 motorcycle, VIN # SMT910K135J [REDACTED]. The motorcycle was purchased from Portland Motorcycle in Portland, Oregon on 4/16/05.

On August 7, 2005 with less than 2,000 miles on the motorcycle I participated in a Fraternal Order of Police fundraiser with the goal of raising money for injured and fallen police officers. Over 70 motorcycles participated and the riders were all members of law enforcement agencies, except for myself and another Superior Court Judge.

At a speed of approximately 25 mph I braked to negotiate a turn to the left while following the motorcycles ahead of me. During the turn the rear wheel lost traction and the motorcycle and I went down. To make a long story short, I ended up in intensive care in spite of a full helmet and complete ballistic safety gear. My treating physician has informed me that, but for this safety equipment, I would have died. I was diagnosed with a concussion. There are many eyewitnesses to my conservative riding style in general and on that day and they are all police officers that were riding behind me.

Upon release from the hospital I have given my motorcycle a close inspection and was surprised to learn that the motorcycle was sold to me with two dissimilar tires with dissimilar tread patterns mounted on the front and rear. The front tire is a Metzler ME 33 Laser and the rear is a Metzler MEZ 2.

As an experienced mechanic on autos, airplanes and motorcycles I have long known that you compromise safety of any vehicle if you equip it with dissimilar tires. To confirm my suspicion I have looked at many other new motorcycles and discovered that they come equipped with tires of the same tread pattern. I have also consulted with a motorcycle

*Edman*  
11/20/05

safety expert who has been qualified as an expert witness in many civil lawsuits and he has confirmed my belief.

I bring this to your attention so that appropriate action can be taken. Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions you may contact me at my home address or by phone at: (home) [REDACTED] or (work) [REDACTED]. I can also be reached by e-mail at: [REDACTED]

Respectfully submitted,

[REDACTED]  
Vancouver, WA [REDACTED]