

NED R. MEIER

2006 FEB -

Sancti Spiritus, NC

January 26, 2006

To: NHTSA

Ref: Copy of letter sent to Mercedes Benz on 1-23-06.

Dear Friend,

This is my 3rd letter; the first 2 must have gone astray.

We have a 2006 ML-350 with 4500 miles with Continental tires while driving in a light rain storm some water was laying on the road in the grove tracks on Hwy. 17N to Wilmington NC. I had the cruise control on 57 mph and I drove into the water that was pooled in low area and the vehicle pulled extremely to right after driving several more miles a car pass me and again got into the water in the tracks of the road this time the vehicle pull to the left. I have never had a vehicle hydroplane in such small amount of water like ML-350 did. I don't know if there is problem with this tire or the vehicle but this not a safe condition. This my wife vehicle and I not sure she could of held the vehicle under control in this condition. She did comment to me that this was problem when she drove thru area with water lying on the road.

I did replace the tire with a set of Bridgestone dueler HL/ Alnzo. The hydroplane rating is much better. (Have not driving these tires under same condition yet)

I real feel that there is safety problem under this condition with the Continental tires.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Address]

*Meier
2/10/06*