

JUL 18 2018

NEF-010

Ms. Heidi King
NHTSA Deputy Administrator
National Highway Transportation Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave S. E.
Washington, DC 20690

[REDACTED]
West Bloomfield, MI [REDACTED]
July 2, 2018

CL-11097139 - 1296

Dear Madam Administrator:

I am reaching out to you as my last and only hope to have myself and family protected from death or serious injury in the event of a crash of my personal automobile due to Inoperative Air Bags.

The seriousness of Air Bag problems are well known and documented with the recall efforts of Takata Air Bags and government warnings of operating vehicles with suspected faulty restrain systems, yet some problems are slipping past safety agencies and manufactures with out concern for the safety of many others.

Specifically, please be informed that there are 2002-2005 Ford Thunderbirds operating on our highways that do not have reliable air bags to provide mandated protection in the event of a crash. And even worst, Air Bag repairs are not available when necessary.

I am aware of this serous problem because I am the owner of a 2002 Ford Thunderbird that displayed a warning light to indicate a problem with the Driver Side Air Bag. I immediately took the car to a Ford Dealer, as instructed in the Owner's Manual, to have the problem corrected. After several days of diagnosis at the Dealership, I was informed that the Air Bag was defective and had to be replaced, but no service Air Bags or service procedures were available.

Sadly, the vehicle was released back to me with full knowledge of the Dealer and Ford Motor Co. that in the event of a crash, serous injury or death could occur because no serviced parts were installed or repair procedures completed to fix a safety problem.

I am very concerned about driving the vehicle and not receiving the same attention from Ford and the government safety agencies that are given to other drivers with Air Bag safety concerns.

I thought if I informed Ford of the situation they would get involved because they would not want a customer in their product not being protected, as mandated by federal law, in a crash. (Especially in light of the worldwide recall of faulty air bags)

Just in recent weeks the NHTSA and Ford agreed to recall and repair 2006 Ranger Trucks with faulty air bags. I think it is a fair question to ask why not the 2002-2005 Thunderbirds? These vehicles have had numerous reports of air bag problems on T-Bird owner's forums, Web Sites and Google inquire.

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It is no secret that your agency has ordered "do not drive" warnings to owners of vehicles with faulty air bags and it would not be a long stretch to mean vehicles with no air bags.

I am hopeful that the government agencies responsible for air bag reliability and safety will get involved and assure the owners of the Ford Thunderbirds that they will have the same consideration shown to them as the vehicle owners with Takata Air Bags.

I have contacted Ford Customer Service and written an informative letter to Ford Officials in April 2018, describing the problem and asking for their help to resolve this serious safety issue. To date, there has been no acknowledgement of my letter.

In addition, I formally filed a complaint with your Agency on April 23, 2018, and the tracking number assigned is 11089780. There has been no response to this serious problem that places the drivers and occupants of this family of vehicles that need air bag repairs in a very dangerous situation.

In conclusion, I am directly appealing to you because I was very impressed by your statement, "NHTSA's number one priority is making sure that everyone is safe on our roads. I can not stress strongly enough the urgency of this recall- these air bags are dangerous."

I understand your statement was meant for air bag explosions, but having air bags that do not work in the event of a crash is just as dangerous.

I am requesting your Agencies appraisal and involvement in this safety issue.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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West Bloomfield, MI [Redacted]

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**Ms. Heidi King
NHTSA Deputy Administrator
National Highway Transportation Adm.
1200 New Jersey Ave S. E.
Washington, DC 20690**

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