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DRAFT

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Subject: NHTSA Investigation Update

As you know NHTSA has had a preliminary evaluation on three of our tire lines. Radial ATX, ATXII and Wilderness. General Motors purchases two sizes in the Wilderness line that we have supplied beginning in August of 1998. Our adjustment data, which we have reviewed with your engineering community along with the fact that these tires have passed all the durability and wear testing that GM requires, is a testimony to the excellent performance our mutual customers are receiving in the market place.

I have attached the latest media releases by BFS. These highlight the key issues:

- Special interest group (Strategic Safety Group), who's clients are personal injury law firms have pushed for a recall without having first hand knowledge.
- Adjustment data provided to NHTSA are extremely low. We have produced 48 million tires with billions of safe miles driven.
- Tires must be cared for as outlined in our warranty manuals that are placed in every GM vehicle and are referred to in your owners manual as well. Inflation pressure is an area that continually is not maintained as we all would expect by the motoring public.
- We encourage any concerned customers with these products to go to one their local Firestone retailers for a free inspection. We will assure the vehicle manufacturers tire pressure is placed in the tires and will continue our policy of customer satisfaction.

NHTSA's preliminary evaluation is in its very early stages. Based upon what we know today there is no data to suggest that GM vehicle owners will have durability issues with the tires on GM vehicles.

BRIDGESTONE / Firestone

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Very truly yours,



Michael E. Martini
Global Team Leader
O.E. Sales

cc: Art Stuart / P Hoda / Dale Ray

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