

10166932

[REDACTED]
San Diego Ca [REDACTED]

AUG 17 2006

August 03, 2006

NHTSA Headquarters
400 Seventh Street SW
Washington DC, 20590

Copy to
RMD

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter written to the Ford Motor Company regarding an incident I had with my vehicle. This is for your information and for your records. I feel it is important enough to report so that something might be looked into and possibly save lives in the future.

If you need any further info please contact me. Thank you.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Edison
8/22/06

August 03, 2006

Ford Motor Company
Customer Relationship Center
P.O. Box 6248
Dearborn , Mi. 48126

Dear Sir:,

I am writing this letter to inform you of a very serious incident that happened while driving my 2000 Ford Expedition. It is very difficult to put in words what happened but I will try to explain the best I can...

On May 18, 2006, I was traveling from San Diego, Ca. to Reno, Nv. via 395 with my three girlfriends to meet another friend for vacation. I had driven the trip using my cruise control on the open road when safe to do so. I was just getting to the Walker River which is a beautiful river just south of the Nevada Border. I was driving a safe speed because of the mountain roads, enjoying the beautiful scenery, when all of a sudden the vehicle bolted ahead and started going faster. I applied my brakes but it did nothing. I realized that I was not in control and could not stop. I then attempted to down shift into lower gears and was trying anything to get it to slow down. The only thing I could do was to keep it on the road. I was very lucky that there were no cars in front of me and that we were all able to stay calm and on the road. Then after a time the brakes worked and I was able to stop. We were in a deserted area and we just sat there for a while, stunned and very shook up. I then proceeded to go on very cautiously. We arrived at our destination, Reno Nevada that evening.

The next morning, after not sleeping at all, I took it to the Ford Dealership in Reno. I did not want to go any further until I could have the vehicle checked and see what and why this happened. I feel that Ford Motor Company would probably want to know what happened when I took the vehicle into a "Ford Authorized Dealership" so I am also enclosing a copy of a letter I wrote to them.

The vehicle was checked by Jones West Fleet Service Dept. and the cruise control was disconnected. They said it needed a part that they did not have in stock. I paid the bill of \$141.16. When I arrived home on May 24, I took it to my dealership, Pearson Ford in San Diego, they said it was a faulty cruise control part and they fixed it at no charge and were very understanding.

I have had a very difficult time with this near tragic incident that almost took at least four lives. I have been dealing with a case of shingles due to the stress. I feel that this problem should be addressed so this would never happen to anyone else. I was the lucky one to live to tell the story.

I would appreciate a reply from you and also feel that I should at least be compensated for the \$141.16 charge at the Reno Ford Dealership. I would appreciate a response from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Sharon Sebastiani
5440 Chaparajos Ct
San Diego, Ca. 92120
619/286-1480

Enc: (2)

cc NHTSA Headquarters