



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

April 28, 2008

[REDACTED]

Hondo, TX [REDACTED]

NVS-216 et  
Ref. # 10226213

Dear [REDACTED]:

Thank you for your correspondence dated April 5, 2008, concerning the availability of parts for your model year (MY) 1998 Ford E150 vehicle. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Defects Investigation received your correspondence on April 24, 2008.

NHTSA is the Federal agency responsible for improving safety on our Nation's highways. We are authorized to order manufacturers to recall and repair vehicles or items of motor vehicle equipment when our investigations indicate that they contain serious safety defects in their design, construction, or performance. We also monitor the adequacy of manufacturers' recall campaigns.

We appreciate the report you provided. Reports from motorists are a very important source of information for us. Ford has recalled over 12 million vehicles in several recalls because of a risk of fire caused by a failure of the switch that interrupts the cruise control operation when the driver applies the brakes. To fully repair the defect, a fuse must be added to protect the switch. Because of the unprecedented number of vehicles involved in this campaign, the parts supplier was unable to keep up with the demand. The latest recall of 4 million vehicles was in August 2007.

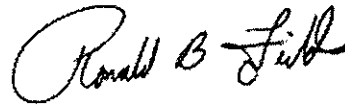
NHTSA has been closely monitoring the situation as new sources of parts are brought into production. On February 28, 2008, we issued a consumer advisory urging owners to bring their vehicles to an authorized Ford dealer to have an interim measure taken until an adequate supply of replacement parts are made available. This information can be found on NHTSA's Internet site at [www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov) under Press Releases. You stated that Cecil Atkission Motors had



previously disconnected the potentially defective switch, which eliminates the risk of a fire, but also prevents the cruise control from functioning. Owners who receive the interim remedy will be notified by Ford when the fused wiring harnesses are available, and Ford will then reconnect the speed control system at no cost to the consumer. For your information, adequate inventory levels of parts to repair passenger vehicles were reached in mid-February 2008. Adequate parts to begin final repair of light trucks are forecast to be available in June 2008. We were assured by Ford that the parts are being manufactured as quickly as possible.

Should you encounter a safety-related problem with a motor vehicle or item of motor vehicle equipment in the future, you can complete an electronic Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire online at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/ivoq>. Also, a summary listing of vehicle owners' complaints, safety recalls, manufacturers' service bulletins, etc. can be obtained at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/problems>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronald B. Fields". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "R".

Ronald B. Fields, Chief  
Correspondence Research Division  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Enforcement