



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE.
Washington, DC 20590

August 25, 2011

The Honorable Steven C. LaTourette
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

NVS-216 mec
Ref. No. 10414291

Dear Congressman LaTourette:

Thank you for your correspondence on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED].
[REDACTED] wrote your office concerning his model year (MY) 2001 Ford F-150 truck.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (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 motor vehicle equipment when our investigations indicate that they contain safety defects in their design, construction, or performance. In order for the agency to initiate an investigation, we look carefully at the body of consumer complaints and other available data to determine whether a defect may exist. However, we cannot act on isolated problems or resolve disputes between individual owners, dealers, or manufacturers.

We appreciate the report you provided on behalf of [REDACTED] and his previous report to our agency which we responded to on July 20. Reports from motorists are a very important source of information for us. [REDACTED] indicated that the fuel tank straps in his MY 2001 Ford F-150 truck fractured, due to corrosion, resulting in the fuel tank falling out.

[REDACTED] mentions NHTSA's Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) preliminary evaluation No. 10-036, which was opened on September 7, 2010. On May 4, ODI upgraded that investigation to an engineering analysis No. 11-006, which is a more detailed and complete technical analysis of the character and scope of an alleged defect. On July 29, Ford Motor Company notified NHTSA that it would conduct a safety recall (NHTSA Campaign No. 11V-385, summary enclosed) involving certain MY 1997 through MY 2003 Ford F-150 trucks to address fuel tank straps that fracture. The affected vehicles are registered in states that have



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climates that are susceptible to high levels of corrosion. The mailing of owner notification letters will begin in September which will also include instruction regarding Ford's reimbursement plan for the cost of repairs paid by vehicle owners prior to notification of the recall.

I hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions, please contact me or Mr. Claude H. Harris, Acting Associate Administrator for Enforcement, at (202) 366-3217.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Chan D. Lieu".

Chan D. Lieu
Director, Governmental Affairs,
Policy and Strategic Planning

Enclosure