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June 26, 2014

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
U.S. Dept. of Transportation
Washington, D.C. 20590

INFORMATION Redacted PURSUANT TO THE FREEDOM OF
INFORMATION ACT (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552(B)(6)

RE: FORD E-450

VIN 1FDXE45S35H [REDACTED]

JUL 18 2014

Gentlemen:

I am reporting to you a situation that occurred April 5, 2014 in order to document what I believe is a defect which could cause a crash, injury or death. This relates to my 2005 Ford E-450 V-10 with an odometer reading of 31,699 miles.

The Throttle Body in my 2005 Winnebago Minnie Winnie Motor Home powered by a Ford E-450 V-10 engine failed and, without warning, there was absolutely **no** acceleration. At the time, my wife and I were on a local 4-lane highway but did not have enough forward motion to safely pull off the roadway and had to be towed. I was also towing a Ford Fiesta behind the motor home. The "limp home mode" warning lighted on the dashboard simultaneously but there was no momentum to even get up a small incline off the highway shoulder.

Less than 100 miles before the breakdown, we had transited the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel in zero visibility fog. If the Throttle Body had failed during that drive, we would have been rear-ended and pushed off the bridge. Or, if we had been on an Interstate with traffic speeds of 60mph+, a major accident would have occurred. The vehicle just stopped in its tracks and, of course, since no braking was involved, no brake lights came on to warn motorists behind us.

A Ford-authorized mechanic replaced the failed Throttle Body (at a cost of \$682) with an improved version that would provide more "limp home" ability if it failed, so clearly the original part was deemed inadequate and should have been **recalled**. Existing Throttle Bodies in this model year Ford E-450 should be replaced by owners notified of the danger.

I would appreciate a response to this letter.

Sincerely,

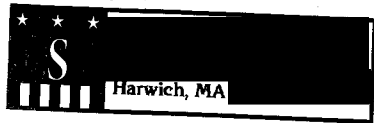
[REDACTED]

Harwich, Massachusetts

Phone [REDACTED]

Cc: Winnebago Industries, Inc.
Ford Motor Co.
Arlington R.V. Supercenter

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SNP



NHTSA, U.S. Dept. of Transportation
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