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December 17, 2025

Ford Motor Company
One America Road
Dearborn, MI 48126

National Highway Transportation Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
West Building
Washington, DC 20590

**Re: Catastrophic Injuries From 2022 Ford Bronco Sport Underhood Fire
Due to Leaking Fuel Injector**

To Whom It May Concern:

Ford Motor Company has known about cracked and leaking fuel injectors in its Bronco Sport and Escape models for at least four years. Ford knows that the defective fuel injectors create a risk of underhood fires while the vehicles are in operation. Ford issued four recalls due to known fuel injector failures (NHTSA Recall Nos. 22V859, 24V187, 25V165, 25V467), but has yet to take any action replace the defective parts or take the vehicles out of service.

Instead of correcting the problem and eliminating the risks of fire, catastrophic injury, or death, Ford affirmatively advised its owners to continue driving. Moreover, Ford continued selling the fire-prone cars, maximizing its own income and profits while putting the public's safety at risk.

On behalf of [REDACTED] and the hundreds of thousands of other Ford customers-- we urge you to take all the affected vehicles out of service immediately. The danger is too great.

In public documents, Ford admits to knowing about dozens of underhood fires in these vehicles but shockingly downplays the seriousness by claiming there have been no reported injuries. We write to inform you of a catastrophic injury that occurred in San Diego, California, on [REDACTED], directly caused by Ford's known underhood fire defect.

[REDACTED], just two weeks after his [REDACTED] birthday, was driving his 2022 Ford Bronco Sport (VIN [REDACTED]) on Interstate [REDACTED] southbound. He purchased the vehicle new from a Ford dealer and had all the service and maintenance performed at the dealer.

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] just before 7:00pm, [REDACTED] was driving home from work when flames erupted in the engine compartment. The gasoline fueled fire was windswept by the speed of the vehicle toward the cabin. Blistering heat and flames quickly penetrated the bulkhead. [REDACTED] was suddenly in danger for his life.

Cell phone video recorded by a passerby shows that [REDACTED] struggled to maintain control of his flaming car, as brakes, steering, and electronics quickly failed in the all-consuming heat. He was faced with an immediate choice: stay in the burning car and burn to death or escape from the flaming vehicle.

The video shows the driver door opening and [REDACTED] exiting the moving car to save his life. He quickly tumbled with the forward momentum, hit his head hard on the roadway, [REDACTED] and suffered [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] is alive . . . and badly broken.

Today [REDACTED] His career potential is destroyed. His medical expenses exceed \$2M and continue to mount. He is permanently disabled and will need lifetime care.

Just days after the catastrophic engine fire, the [REDACTED] family received in the mail a written recall notice from Ford (NHTSA Recall 25V467). **"Ford Motor Company has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists,"** Ford wrote about [REDACTED] Bronco Sport.

As if in dialogue with [REDACTED] its customer, the Ford letter continues:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| What is the issue? | On your vehicle there is a possibility that a fuel injector may crack which may result in fuel accumulating on the top of the engine. |
| What is the risk? | Liquid fuel and/or fuel vapor that accumulates near a hot surface, such as a hot engine or exhaust components may ignite resulting in an under-hood fire, increasing the risk of injury. |
| What will Ford do? | <u>Parts are currently not available.</u> Ford Motor Company is working to provide parts for this repair. When the remedy |

becomes available, Ford Motor Company will notify you via mail to schedule a service appointment with your dealer for repairs to be completed free of charge.

What should you do?

When the remedy is available Ford Motor Company will send a letter to inform you to contact your dealer to schedule a repair.

...

Ford **has not** issued instructions to stop driving your vehicle under this safety recall.

“Too little, too late” doesn’t even come close to the family’s reaction to this letter.

A more succinct summary of the Ford notice might read something like this:

What is the issue?	Gasoline under pressure leaking onto your hot engine and exhaust system while you drive.
What is the risk?	Fire at freeway speeds engulfing your engine and blowing into the passenger compartment within seconds.
What will Ford do?	Nothing. After years of knowing about this, we still are not ready to fix it.
What should you do?	Keep driving. We’re not willing to endure the cost and humiliation of fixing these cars or taking them out of service. We’ll let you know if we change our mind.

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WHAT FORD NEEDS TO DO NOW (AND SHOULD HAVE DONE THREE YEARS AGO):

TELL FORD'S CUSTOMERS WHO TRUST FORD TO:

Stop driving your affected vehicle. Immediately return it to the nearest Ford dealer. We will either repair it or replace it free of charge.

On behalf of [REDACTED] his family and friends, and the millions of drivers and passengers of Ford Bronco Sports and Ford Escapes, we urge you to take all the affected vehicles out of service immediately.

We will be filing a lawsuit in San Diego before the end of the year to hold Ford accountable for its defective product and failed response, to obtain compensation for [REDACTED] injuries, and to provide the resources necessary for his lifetime care. But that process will take too long to protect the other drivers of these defective vehicles.

We call on Ford Motor Company and NHTSA to take immediate action. Get these dangerous cars off the road before even one more life is destroyed.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

CHRISTIAN HULBURT
of
THORSNES BARTOLOTTA MCGUIRE

[REDACTED]

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