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Mr. James P. Vondale, Director  
Automotive Safety Office  
Environmental & Safety Engineering  
Ford Motor Co.  
Fairlane Plaza South  
330 Town Center Drive  
Dearborn, MI 48126-2738

Re: Confidentiality Determination/GM – EA06-001

Dear Mr. Vondale:

This responds to your July 14, 2006 letter, requesting confidential treatment for information submitted by Ford North America (Ford) in response to an information request (IR) in connection with the above investigation. EA06-001 concerns sunroof breakage in model years 2004-2006 Cadillac SRX vehicles. Specifically, you request confidential treatment for bracketed information (response to question 5(o)) contained on a CD and enclosed with your submission. You request confidential treatment for this information for a period of 10 years.

Your letter and accompanying certificate indicate that the information at issue is confidential and proprietary information that Ford does not, and has not, released to the public. You also assert that the release of this information would be likely to cause Ford substantial competitive harm.

I am granting your request.

The information at issue pertains to Ford's rationale for selecting a particular type of glass for Land Rover sunroofs. Ford asserts that this information could be used by other manufacturers to develop or improve their own products without the need to invest substantial resources to the detriment of Ford. I agree that the release of this information would be likely to cause Ford to suffer competitive harm. Ford also states that it does not customarily release this information to the public and is not publicly available. I agree. Accordingly, your request for confidential treatment is granted.

Subject to the following conditions, this grant of confidential treatment will remain in effect for a period of 10 years. The information may be disclosed under 49 CFR § 512.22

based upon newly discovered or changed facts, and you must inform the agency of any changed circumstances that may affect the protection of the information (49 CFR § 512.10). If necessary, you will be notified prior to the release of any information under the procedures established by our regulations (49 CFR § 512.22(b)).

Sincerely,

OS

Otto G. Matheke, III  
Senior Attorney

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