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December 20, 2023

Ms. Tanya Topka, Acting Director
Office of Defects Investigation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, W45-302
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Ms. Topka:

Subject: RQ23-006

Ford Motor Company's (Ford) provides the attached partial response to the Agency's letter dated October 10, 2023, regarding its Recall Query (RQ23-006) to investigate allegations of loss of motive power resulting from a failure or malfunction of the cannister purge valve in certain model year (MY) 2012 - 2018 Ford Focus vehicles. Based on the agreement between the Agency and Ford, the attached is a response to requests (1) through (9), (11), and (12). Ford will submit a subsequent response to requests (10), (13), and (14) to the Agency no later than January 10, 2024.

Ford's response to RQ23-006 was prepared pursuant to a diligent search for the information requested. While we have employed our best efforts to provide responsive information, the breadth of the Agency's request and the requirement that information be provided on an expedited basis make this a difficult task. We nevertheless have made a substantial effort to provide thorough and accurate information, and we would be pleased to meet with the Agency to discuss any aspect of the attached response. Ford reserves the right to update and supplement this response and any subsequent responses as new information may come available or where certain requests for information could not be fully provided within the time allowed.

The scope of Ford's investigation, conducted to locate responsive information, focused on Ford employees most likely to be knowledgeable about the subject matter of this inquiry and on review of Ford files in which responsive information ordinarily would be expected to be found and to which Ford ordinarily would refer. Ford included electronic information within the scope of its search. Ford has not attempted to retrieve electronic files from computer storage that were overwritten or deleted because such files are generally unavailable. To the extent that the Agency's definition of Ford includes suppliers, contractors, and affiliated enterprises for which Ford does not exercise day-to-day operational control, we note that

information belonging to such entities ordinarily is not in Ford's possession, custody, or control.

Ford has construed this request as pertaining to vehicles manufactured for sale in the United States, its protectorates, and territories.

Ford notes that some of the information being produced pursuant to this inquiry may contain personal information such as customer names, addresses, telephone numbers, and complete Vehicle Identification Numbers (VINs). Ford is producing such personal information in an unredacted form to facilitate the Agency's investigation with the understanding that the Agency will not make such personal information available to the public under FOIA Exemption 6, 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(6).

Answers to the Agency's specific questions are attached in the folders identified by request number. As requested, after each numeric designation, Ford has set forth verbatim the request for information, followed by Ford's response. Unless otherwise stated, Ford has undertaken to provide responsive documents dated up to and including October 10, 2023, the date of the inquiry. Ford has searched within the following offices for responsive documents: Environment, Safety Engineering and Compliance, Ford Customer Service Division, Global Core Engineering, Office of the General Counsel, and North American Product Development.

The Agency defined "Subject Vehicles" as "All MY 2012-2018 Ford Focus vehicles manufactured for sale or lease in the United States, including, but not limited to, the District of Columbia, and current U.S. territories and possessions."

In an October 31, 2023, meeting with the Agency for this Recall Query, the Agency and Ford agreed to define the "Subject Component" as the "Canister Purge Valve (CPV) Assembly" manufactured on the subject vehicles" and to define the "Alleged Defect" as "loss of motive power resulting from a failure or malfunction of the subject component".

Per agreement, Ford is providing claims and complaints data on Focus vehicles not included in recalls 18V-735 and/or 19V-515. For vehicles included in recalls 18V-735 and/or 19V-515, Ford is providing claims, reports, and complaints received by Ford after the recall remedy repair was completed.

Please feel free to contact me regarding any questions concerning the attached response.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:
[REDACTED]
FD1692468D2241B...
For:
[REDACTED]

Attachment