



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



Luis Armando Vega, MBA

9/5/2025



Mantá, Puerto Rico

Defect Petition DP25001

Dear Mr. Vega,

This letter acknowledges receipt of your petition dated August 14, 2025, by the the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Office of Defects Investigation (ODI), on August 22, 2025. Your petition requests NHTSA conduct an investigation into an alleged defect of the “underbody shields” in the 2020 Ford Explorer that can result in premature degregation and detachment.

Your petition has been assigned the identification number DP25001. A copy of the opening resume denoting receipt of the petition is attached for your information.

In accordance with 49 U.S.C. § 30162 and 49 C.F.R. Part 552, NHTSA will conduct a technical review of the petition. The Agency will subsequently notify you of its decision to either grant or deny the petition.

Sincerely,



Tanya Topka  
Director  
Office of Defects Investigation