

# DONALD W. RICKETTS

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December 20, 2005

Cheryl Rose  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
Office of Defects Investigation  
NVS-210, 400 7th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20590



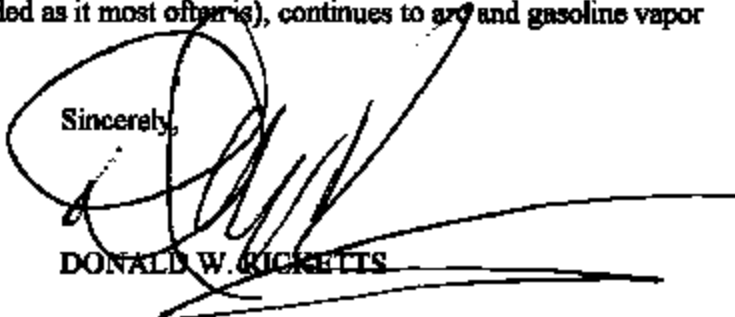
Re: DP- 05-005

Dear Ms. Rose:

In a letter dated October 17 to Senator Dianne Feinstein Ford took the position that there is no safety hazard because spark plugs cannot be "shot" out of the engine. It stated that "spark plugs in the vehicles in question are covered by a coil that is bolted to the engine and prevents a loose spark plug from moving more than a fraction of an inch."

I do not know if Ford is taking this position in your investigation. It is incorrect. The force is such that in the clear majority of incidents the coil-on-plug bracket also fails and breaks. The active coil, now loose in the engine compartment (if grounded as it most often is), continues to arc and gasoline vapor escapes from the now open cylinder.

Sincerely,



DONALD W. RICKETTS

DWR:dgr  
cc: Sen. Dianne Feinstein