



September 12, 2014

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Ellen Richardson

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SHERIDAN, PAUL V
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11 September 2014

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The Honorable Calvin L. Scovell, III
Inspector General
U.S. Department of Transportation – 7th Floor
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Criminal Investigation of Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, and DOT-IG review of NHTSA EA12-005
Reference 1: Letter to you of 9 June 2014 from the Center for Auto Safety (CAS)
Reference 2: Letter to CAS from Paul V. Sheridan of 20 August 2014

Dear Inspector General Scovell:

A petition is being circulated which calls for a criminal investigation of officials of the Department of Transportation (DOT), the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and Fiat-Chrysler Automobiles (FCA). As of this letter nearly 4,000 signatures have been received which strenuously support the merits of the petition; available here: <https://change.org/JeepFires>

Reference 1 was organized into 8 categories for your assessment of the defect investigation conducted by DOT/NHTSA upon General Motors (GM); available here <http://www.autosafety.org/scovell-letter>. The bailout of GM was taxpayer-funded, and the so-called “bankruptcy” was rubber-stamped by a New York court. Both of these processes were actively endorsed by the Obama Administration.

A similar process and endorsement occurred for FCA. It is instructive to apply, with a minimal modification, the eight CAS categories to FCA. But more urgently, a cursory scrutinizing of the recent defect investigation conducted by DOT/NHTSA upon FCA leads the taxpayer to outrage, and their petition mentioned above. The latter was prompted by Reference 2; enclosed, available here: <http://pvsheridan.com/Sheridan2Ditlow-3-20Aug2014.pdf> I quote Senator Richard Blumenthal at the recent Senate Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Product Safety:

"The more I hear and see in these documents and the more I learn about what happened, the more convinced I am that 'GM' has a real exposure to criminal liability. I think it's legal and appropriate that 'GM' will face prosecution."

The urgent minimal modification to the Blumenthal quote involves inserting the term 'FCA.'

I would like to discuss the subject with you at your earliest convenience. For perspective on how serious these issues have become, please note page 13 and Attachment 5 of Reference 2. Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Respectfully yours.

Paul V. Sheridan

cc: C. Ditlow

Enclosure