

March 17, 2022

Attention:

U.S. Department of Transportation National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Office of  
Defects Investigation

I am contacting the NHTSA today to ***Petition for a Defect Investigation.***

The 2021 Ford Bronco with the 2.7L Ecoboost engine has a known defect in the valves causing catastrophic engine failure. This is a known problem by Ford and has been addressed by an engine redesign going forward.

The problem resides with Ford in that they have not communicated in any way with owners currently driving the 2.7L Bronco in the affected build dates. This is a major safety issue in that the catastrophic engine failure has already left hundreds of people stranded on roadways nationwide. Some have barely avoided major injury when their vehicles have had complete power loss at freeway speeds in traffic, others in the middle of busy intersections with no ability to get out of harms way, and still others have been stranded for hours in freezing conditions waiting on help.

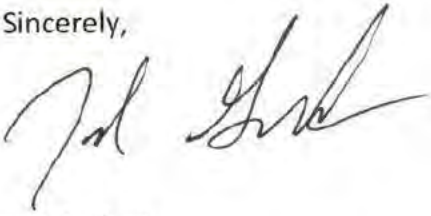
As of today, there are 35 complaints registered on the NHTSA website for complete engine failure. There are hundreds more nationwide that have not registered through NHTSA. My personal vehicle was delivered on 11/17/2021 with an engine build date of 8/2/2021. Through a small sampling of a few hundred owners of this vehicle I have found three owners with this build date that have had complete engine failures leaving them stranded. In fact, according to my engine serial number and build sequence one failed unit was three units ahead of mine on the production line. One other was fifteen units behind my production sequence, and another was thirty units behind. These are only the ones I can document. There are surely many more.

Ford needs to recall the affected units immediately for proactive replacement of the parts causing the total failure of this engine. They have clearly acknowledged the problem by stopping production and implementing a change to this engine before resuming production. In fact, an internal Ford memo documents these changes. It appears as if all 2.7L Ecoboost engines built and installed in the 2021 Ford Bronco built between approximately May 2021 and November 2021 are affected by these failures. Vehicle mileage at failure has ranged from under 1000 miles to over 7000 miles that I can document.

Please initiate an investigation into this known defect so that we may prevent serious injury or possible death. I am happy to provide any and all of the information and documentation that will help initiate the recall of the affected vehicles. I cannot emphasize enough the level of stress it brings knowing that I am driving a ticking bomb with no choice going forward.

102

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jud Gutheil". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jud" and last name "Gutheil" clearly distinguishable.

Jud Gutheil

[REDACTED]  
Incline Village, N  
[REDACTED]

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age, NV  
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Highway Traffic Safety Administration Office of  
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