

3/5/2020 1:09 PM

DP 18-001 and your recent letter

To jeffrey.giuseppe@dot.gov

Dear Mr. Giuseppe,

You and I have never met, spoken by phone, or exchanged emails/printed correspondence. I am offering this as a prefatory paragraph to acknowledge broad context.

This is in reference to your letter that arrived in an envelope postmarked 2/28/2020. The letter is undated, one page in length, and looks to serve as a cover letter to an undated document titled Denial of Motor Defect Petition that is six pages in length. The matter centers on ODI's DP 18-001.

As I was the original petitioner I fully understand the subject and narrative that unfolded within both documents. Being in agreement is another matter.

I am troubled by these two excerpts:

- *...Although a manufacturing or design defect may contribute to premature corrosion-related failures to vehicle underbody components, a severe operating environment or improper care and maintenance can also cause such failures. Annual inspections, monthly cleaning, and detecting and repairing problems early can help to prevent such problems or lessen their impact.*
- *The damage that may result in tank retention concerns appears to occur progressively over many years with ample opportunity for detection and repair.*

You will know of course that I was not interviewed as part of the analysis, nor was my vehicle inspected by ODI for its gas-tank repair-status and overall condition, i.e., presence or absence of evidence of care and maintenance.

I would have preferred reading a *draft* of the petition denial so my response could be more timely and perhaps influence the report's presence or absence of facts – along with its tone. I now have no clear path forward, to use a vehicular metaphor, *it is like I am parked in the median strip in a German autobahn, Isuzu on one side, NHSTA the other.* Any suggestions?

Truly yours,

[Redacted]
 Saint Paul, Minnesota USA
 [Redacted]



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