

June 5, 2020

Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administrator
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

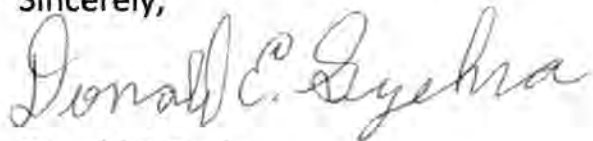
To Whom It May Concern:

I am submitting a petition to initiate a rulemaking under the Vehicle Safety Act.

Enclosed please find the petition, a copy of my provisional patent for the idea, and a copy of an email submitted to ovscpublic@dot.gov on May 7, 2020.

Thank you for your consideration of my petition. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,



Donald E. Sychra

135 Wyldewoode Drive
McDonough, GA 30253

Phone: 770-355-0114

enclosures: petition
copy of provisional patent
email dated 05/07/2020

Petition to Initiate a Rulemaking under the Vehicle Safety Act

Date: June 5, 2020

**Petitioner: Donald E. Sychra
135 Wyldewoode Drive
McDonough, Georgia 30253**

Phone: 770-355-0114

I. Introduction

I submit that in the manufacturing of new vehicles, a lamp needs to be installed in the center of the grill on the front of the vehicle. I am calling this lamp, a Vehicle Deceleration Indicator Lamp.

II. Description of the Vehicle Deceleration Indicator Lamp

The grounded lamp requires a wire connecting the fuse box to a switch added to the transmission shift lever. From the switch added to the transmission shift lever the wire connects to a switch added to the acceleration pedal. From the switch added to the acceleration pedal the wire connects to the grounded lamp in the center of the grill on the front of the vehicle. (See Exhibit # 1)

The lamp will come on when the vehicle is started and in a forward gear position. The lamp does not function in the reverse gear. When the vehicle operator places his/her foot on the accelerator pedal the lamp turns off.

The lamp activates again when the vehicle operator takes his/her foot off the accelerator pedal.

III. Necessity of the Vehicle Deceleration Indicator Lamp

The safety of pedestrians is currently a national concern. I submit that the addition of the Vehicle Deceleration Indicator Lamp to new vehicles will aid in the improvement of pedestrian safety.

When the lamp is on, pedestrians will be alerted to the fact that the approaching vehicle is slowing down and/or stopping. The lamp provides the pedestrian with an added visual cue to assist in avoiding injury or death.

IV. Hazard Data

A. In an Automotive News article, October 22, 2019, "Pedestrian fatalities on U.S. roads hit almost 30-year high", the following is noted:

1. The number of pedestrians killed (2018) rose to its highest level in nearly three decades. (U.S. auto safety agency)
2. Deaths of pedestrians have jumped by 42% in the last decade even as the combined number of all other traffic deaths has fallen by 8%. (NHTSA)
3. Auto safety experts say the growing number of drivers distracted by mobile devices is at least partly to blame. (NHTSA)

B. Exhibit # 2: What should the pedestrian do? (NHTSA)

I submit that if the vehicle turning left in Exhibit # 2 towards the crosswalk had the Vehicle Deceleration Indicator Lamp, the pedestrians would see the lamp was on and know it was safe to continue on the crosswalk. The lamp activates when the vehicle operator takes his/her foot off the accelerator pedal.

C. Exhibit # 3: Intersections What: Visual Screen (NHTSA)

I submit that if the vehicle with the arrow in front of it in Exhibit # 3 had the Vehicle Deceleration Indicator Lamp, the pedestrian in the crosswalk would see whether the lamp was on or off before the vehicle sensor would detect the pedestrian. This would provide the pedestrian with a visual cue to help the pedestrian decide whether to proceed or stop.

D. Exhibit # 4: Traffic Safety Facts Annual Report, 4/23/2019 (National Statistics)

In this chart, statistics are listed for fatalities and injuries to pedestrians for each year 2017 – 2010.

V. Cost Analysis

Cost estimates are based on an internet search of material costs. Costs listed refer to the estimated cost of adding the Vehicle Deceleration Indicator Lamp per vehicle.

A. Materials

1. Exhibit # 5: Wire (approximately 12 feet of wire per vehicle)
Cost: \$3.96 (per vehicle)

2. Exhibit # 6: Switch added to transmission shift lever

The switch added to the transmission shift lever can be a neutral safety switch or back-up light switch kit as indicated in Exhibit # 6.

Cost: \$41.95 (per vehicle)

3. Exhibit # 7: Switch added to the acceleration pedal

The switch added to the acceleration pedal can be a brake light switch as indicated in Exhibit # 7.

Cost: \$15.99 (per vehicle)

4. Exhibit # 8: Grounded Lamp

Cost: \$ 15.62 (per vehicle)

5. Total materials cost: \$77.52 (per vehicle)

EXHIBITS

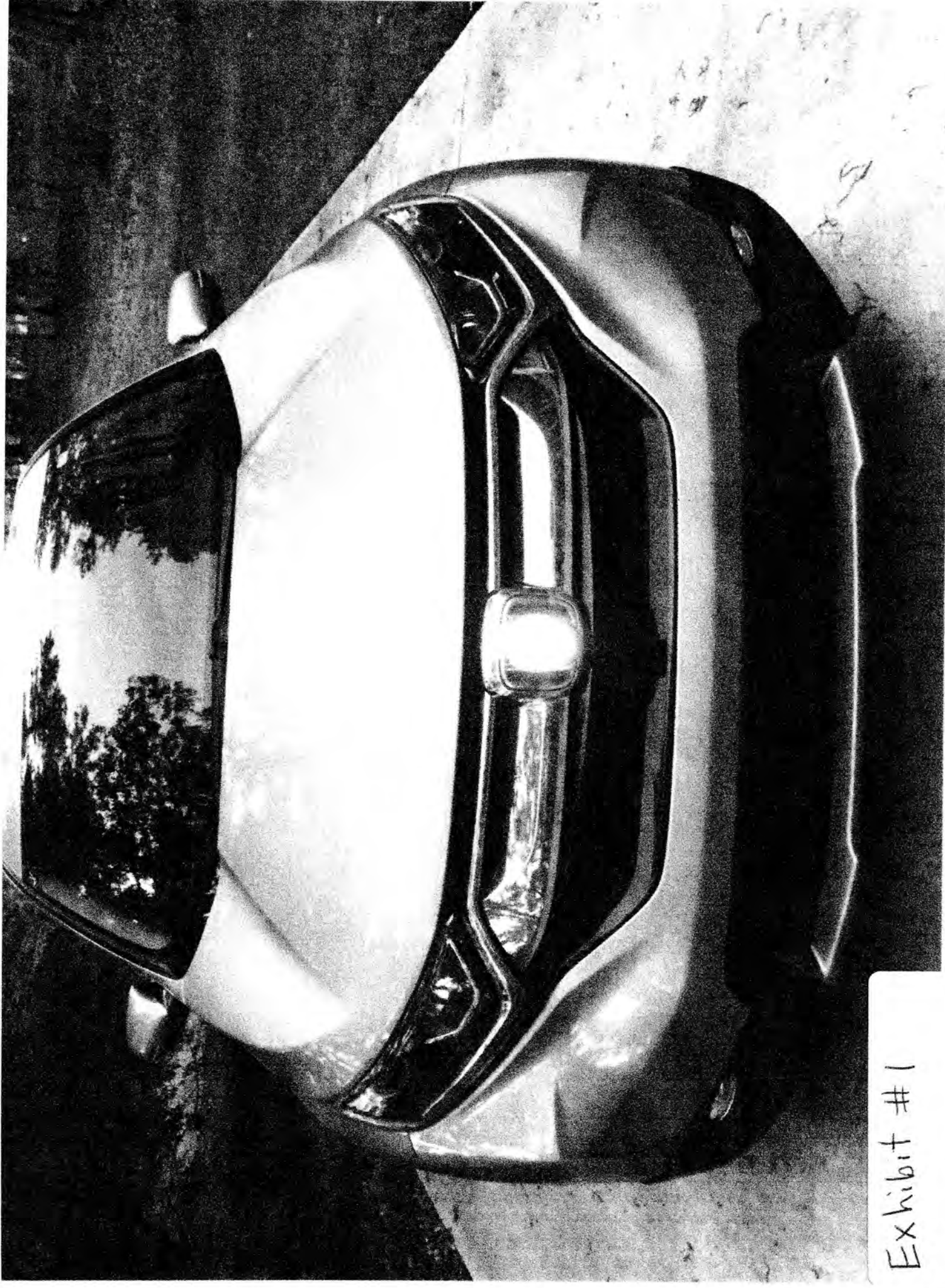


Exhibit #1

What should the pedestrians do?

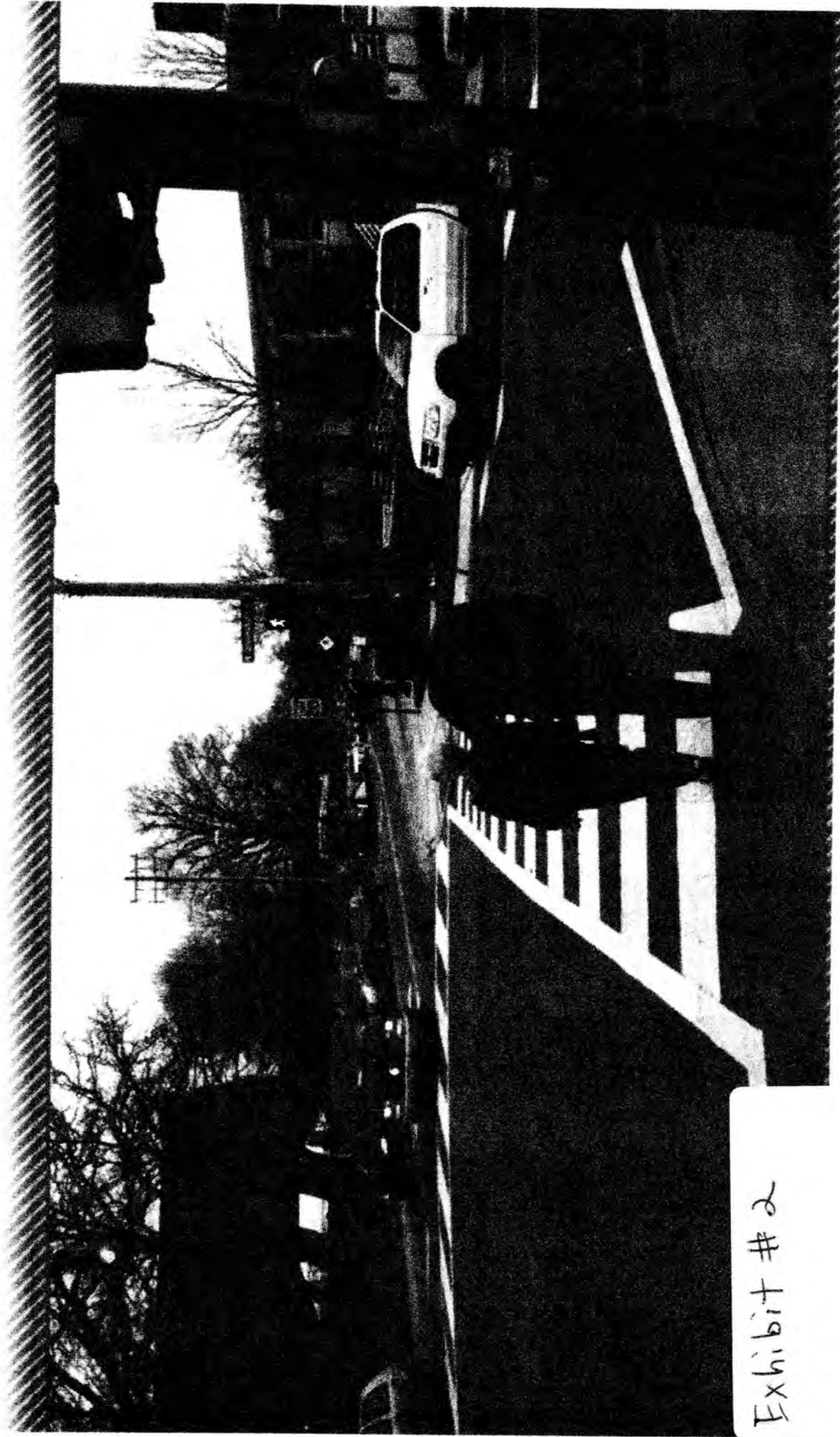


Exhibit #2

INTERSECTIONS

What: Visual screens

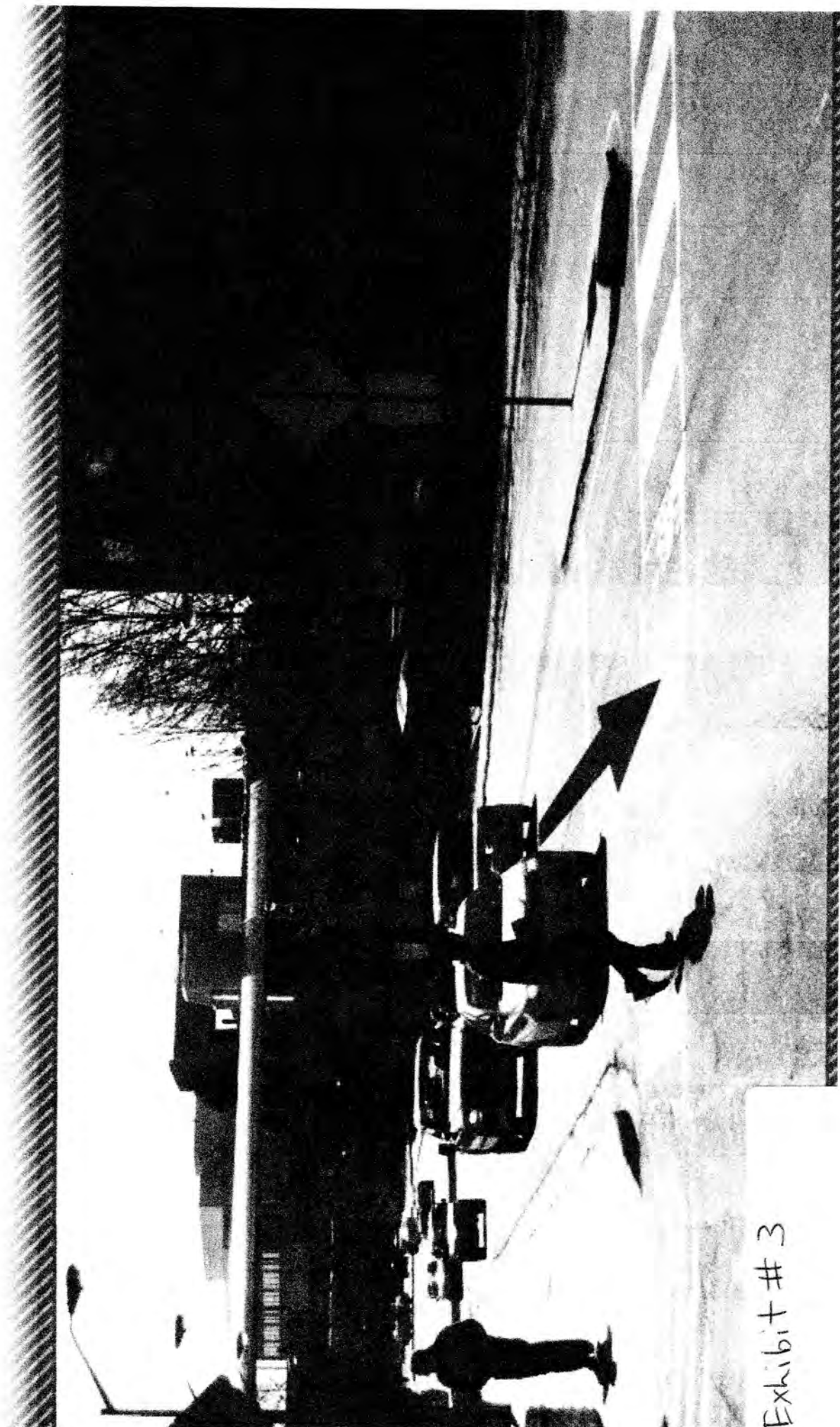


Exhibit # 3

NATIONAL STATISTICS		2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
POLICE-REPORTED MOTOR VEHICLE TRAFFIC CRASHES									
Fatal		34,247	34,748	32,538	30,056	30,202	31,006	29,867	30,296
Injury		1,889,000	2,116,000	1,715,000	1,648,000	1,591,000	1,634,000	1,530,000	1,542,000
Property-Damage-Only		4,530,000	4,670,000	4,548,000	4,387,000	4,066,000	3,950,000	3,778,000	3,847,000
Total		6,452,000	6,821,000	6,296,000	6,064,000	5,687,000	5,615,000	5,338,000	5,419,000
TRAFFIC CRASH VICTIMS: FATALITIES									
Occupants		24,973	25,276	23,899	22,307	22,483	23,017	22,510	23,371
Drivers		18,726	18,717	17,615	16,470	16,520	16,838	16,474	16,864
Passengers		6,174	6,485	6,213	5,766	5,896	6,106	5,972	6,451
Unknown		73	74	71	71	67	73	64	56
Motorcyclists		5,172	5,337	5,029	4,594	4,692	4,986	4,630	4,518
Nonoccupants		6,988	7,193	6,556	5,843	5,718	5,779	5,339	5,110
Pedestrians		5,977	6,080	5,494	4,910	4,779	4,818	4,457	4,302
Pedalcyclists		783	852	829	729	749	734	682	623
Other/Unknown		228	261	233	204	190	227	200	185
Total		37,133	37,806	35,484	32,744	32,893	33,782	32,479	32,999
TRAFFIC CRASH VICTIMS: INJURED									
Occupants		2,524,000	2,790,000	2,230,000	2,121,000	2,099,000	2,134,000	2,010,000	2,027,000
Drivers		1,816,000	2,003,000	1,605,000	1,524,000	1,450,000	1,489,000	1,416,000	1,431,000
Passengers		708,000	786,000	624,000	597,000	648,000	644,000	593,000	596,000
Unknown		1,000	1,000	1,000	*	*	1,000	1,000	*
Motorcyclists		89,000	104,000	88,000	92,000	88,000	93,000	81,000	82,000
Nonoccupants		133,000	166,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	136,000	126,000	130,000
Pedestrians		71,000	87,000	70,000	65,000	66,000	76,000	69,000	70,000
Pedalcyclists		50,000	64,000	45,000	50,000	48,000	49,000	48,000	52,000
Other/Unknown		12,000	15,000	10,000	10,000	11,000	10,000	9,000	8,000
Total		2,746,000	3,061,000	2,443,000	2,338,000	2,313,000	2,362,000	2,217,000	2,239,000
OTHER NATIONAL STATISTICS									
Vehicle Miles Traveled (Millions)		3,212,347	3,174,408	3,095,373	3,025,656	2,988,280	2,969,433	2,950,402	2,967,266
Resident Population		325,719,178	323,405,935	321,039,839	318,622,525	316,234,505	313,993,272	311,644,280	309,338,421
Registered Vehicles		290,386,987	288,033,900	281,312,446	274,804,904	269,294,302	265,647,194	265,043,362	257,312,235
Licensed Drivers		225,346,257	221,711,918	218,084,465	214,092,472	212,159,728	211,814,830	211,874,649	210,114,939
NATIONAL RATES: FATALITIES									
Fatalities per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled		1.16	1.19	1.15	1.08	1.10	1.14	1.10	1.11
Fatalities per 100,000 Population		11.40	11.69	11.05	10.28	10.40	10.76	10.42	10.67
Fatalities per 100,000 Registered Vehicles		12.79	13.13	12.61	11.92	12.21	12.72	12.25	12.82
Fatalities per 100,000 Licensed Drivers		16.48	17.05	16.27	15.29	15.50	15.95	15.33	15.71
NATIONAL RATES: INJURED PERSONS									
Injured Persons per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled		85	96	79	77	77	80	75	75
Injured Persons per 100,000 Population		843	946	761	734	731	752	711	724
Injured Persons per 100,000 Registered Vehicles		946	1,063	869	851	859	889	836	870
Injured Persons per 100,000 Licensed Drivers		1,219	1,380	1,120	1,092	1,090	1,115	1,046	1,066
*Estimate less than 500.									
Sources: Crashes, Fatalities, Injured, and Costs - National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.									
Population - U.S. Bureau of the Census.									
Vehicle Miles Traveled and Licensed Drivers - Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).									
Registered Vehicles - FHWA and Polk data from R.I. Polk & Co., a foundation of IHS Markit automotive solutions.									

Exhibit #4

We're still here and shipping orders—let's build it together. [Learn more.](#)

Summit Racing® SXL Primary Electrical Wire SUM-874200BK

\$32.99



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Summit Racing® SXL Primary Electrical Wire

Part Type: Electrical Wire

★★★★★ (3)

[Review This Product](#)

Electrical Wire, 14-Gauge, 100 ft. Long, Black, Each

Estimated Ship Date: Today

Would you rather pick it up? [Select Location](#)

Prop 65 Warning



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Brand: Summit Racing

Manufacturer's Part Number: SUM-874200BK

Part Type: Electrical Wire

Product Line: Summit Racing® SXL Primary Electrical Wire

Summit Racing Part Number: SUM-874200BK

UPC: 190861027893

Wire Gauge: 14-gauge

Wire Color: Black

Length (ft): 100.00 ft.

Quantity: Sold individually.

In-Store Pickup: Choose In-store pick-up (OH, NV, GA, TX) on our web site.

This Summit® SXL primary electrical wire is a cross-linked polyethylene thermoplastic designed for use in engine compartments. It is rated for use of 50 V or less, has a temperature rating of 257 degrees F, and resists the abrasion, oil, and gas found in high-heat applications. Summit® SXL primary electrical wire meets SAE J1128 specifications, so it's the perfect choice for your electrical system needs.

[Warranty](#)

Most Helpful Reviews

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3 Customer Reviews for Summit Racing SUM-874200BK - Summit Racing® SXL Primary Electrical Wire

Average Customer Review

5 Star	(2)
4 Star	(1)
3 Star	(0)
2 Star	(0)
1 Star	(0)

[+See All 3 Reviews](#)

★★★★★ **Its wire man**

Summit Racing Verified Purchase

I needed wire for my new fuel pump. Worked great and like the sheathing. Can't beat the price and always super fast shipping.

0 of 0 found this review helpful.

Reviewer: **JASON** from GA

Date: **May 02, 2018**

Appearance

Ease of Installation

Price/Value

Exhibit # 5

We're still here and shipping orders—let's build it together. [Learn more.](#)

Similar Products



Painless Performance 80175 - Painless Performance Neutral Safety/Backup Light Kits
★★★★★ (8)
\$49.99



Ron Francis Wiring NS400 - Ron Francis Wiring Transmission Mounted Neutral Safety Switches
★★★★☆ (3)
\$72.47



Lokar S-68154 - Lokar Replacement Neutral Safety Switches
★★★★★ (8)
\$21.95

Lokar Backup Light and Neutral Safety Switch Kits BL-1400U

\$41.95



1

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Fast Shipping

Tech Advice

Low Price Guarantee

Easy Returns

★★★★★ (58) **Q & A**

Review This Product | 15 Answered Questions

Neutral Safety/Backup Switch, GM Column Shifter Linkage, Each

Estimated Ship Date: Today

Would you rather pick it up? Select Location

View All Media



Check Fit

Prop 65 Warning

View Similar Products



Lokar Backup Light and Neutral Safety Switch Kits

Part Type: Neutral Safety And Backup Light Switches

Application: Find out if this fits your application



Pay over 12 months at 0% APR
Min purchase required.

[Overview](#) [Applications](#) [Suggested Parts](#) [Reviews](#) [Q & A](#) [Show All](#)

Instructions

Brand: Lokar

Manufacturer's Part Number: BL-1400U

Part Type: Neutral Safety And Backup Light Switches

Product Line: Lokar Backup Light and Neutral Safety Switch Kits

Summit Racing Part Number: LOK-BL1400U

UPC: 815470008100

Quantity: Sold individually.

Notes: One switch only serves as neutral safety switch or backup light switch,

In-Store Pickup: Choose In-store pick-up (OH, NV, GA, TX) on our web site.

Lokar backup light and neutral safety switch kits will function as either a single-trigger back-up light switch or a double-trigger neutral safety switch. The backup light kits will turn on the rear backup lights when the vehicle is shifted into reverse. The neutral safety switch kits will only allow the car to be started in park, increasing your safety. All mounting hardware is included.

Warranty

Questions & Answers

[Ask a Product Question](#)

Q: Do you have a neutral/backup safety switch for an ATS6200RBB

Asked by CARL on June 03, 2017

A: All Lokar shifters come with a Neutral Safety Switch (NSS) and the installation instructions will show you how to adjust the NSS with the NSS adjuster plug that is included with your shifter installation kit. The BL1400U will work fine for giving the addition of Back Up Lights. This would be an excellent addition to your project if you are wanting to run back up lights.



Lokar Answer - June 05, 2017

Exhibit #6

We're still here and shipping orders—let's build it together. [Learn more.](#)

Standard Motor Brake Light Sending Units SLS66

\$15.99



1

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[+ Compare](#)

Fast Shipping

Tech Advice

Low Price Guarantee

Easy Returns

★★★★☆ (14)

[Review This Product](#)

Stoptight Switch, OEM Replacement, Each

Estimated Ship Date: Today

Would you rather pick it up? [Select Location](#)

[Check Fit](#)

View Similar Products

STANDARD

Standard Motor Brake Light Sending Units

Part Type: Electrical Switches

Application: Find out if this fits your application



[Pay over 12 months at 0% APR](#)
Min purchase required.

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[Overview](#) [Applications](#) [Suggested Parts](#) [Related Kit/Combos](#) [Reviews](#) [Show All](#)

Brand: Standard Motor Products

Manufacturer's Part Number: SLS66

Part Type: Electrical Switches

Product Line: Standard Motor Brake Light Sending Units

Summit Racing Part Number: SMP-SLS66

UPC: 091769025861

Switch Actuation Style: Push button

Lighted: No

Safety Cover: No

Terminal Type: Stock

Labeled: No

Weatherproof Sealed: No

Wiring Included: No

Relay Included: No

Switch Material: Plastic

Switch Finish: Black

Quantity: Sold individually.

In-Store Pickup: Choose In-store pick-up (OH, NV, GA, TX) on our web site.

Don't take chances with old, questionable, or faulty brake light sending units that can be a danger to you and others. Standard Motor Products replacement brake light senders are designed to exceed OEM specifications for dependable, accurate, maintenance-free operation. They're available for fitment on a wide variety of cars, trucks, and vans. Trust your vehicle's electrical system needs to Standard Motor Performance.

Warranty

Most Helpful Reviews

[Review This Product](#)

14 Customer Reviews for Standard Motor Products SLS66 - Standard Motor Brake Light Sending Units

Average Customer Review

5 Star	(4)
4 Star	(3)
3 Star	(3)
2 Star	(3)

Exhibit #7



Select Vehicle

Select Year

Select Make

Select Model

GO

Free Shipping on Orders Over \$99* *Available Within The Contiguous USA

RV LIGHTING / OPTRONICS / INTERIOR LIGHT / EXTERIOR LIGHT

Optronics LED RV Utility Light - Submersible - 168 Lumens - Round - Chrome Trim - Clear Lens

(67 reviews)

Price: \$15.62

ADD TO CART



PRODUCT IMAGES



CUSTOMER PHOTOS



Exhibit #8

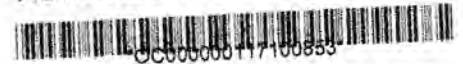


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Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING or 371(c) DATE	GRP ART UNIT	FIL FEE REC'D	ATTY. DOCKET NO.	TOT CLAIMS	IND CLAIMS
63/101,413	04/30/2020		70			

CONFIRMATION NO. 5079
FILING RECEIPT



Date Mailed: 05/19/2020

Donald Eugene Sychra
135 Wyldewoode Drive
McDonough, GA 30253

Receipt is acknowledged of this provisional patent application. It will not be examined for patentability and will become abandoned not later than twelve months after its filing date. Any correspondence concerning the application must include the following identification information: the U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER, FILING DATE, NAME OF FIRST INVENTOR, and TITLE OF INVENTION. Fees transmitted by check or draft are subject to collection.

Please verify the accuracy of the data presented on this receipt. If an error is noted on this Filing Receipt, please submit a written request for a corrected Filing Receipt identifying the requested changes, preferably by including a properly marked-up ADS showing the changes with strike-through for deletions and underlining for additions. If you received a "Notice to File Missing Parts" or other Notice requiring a response for this application, please submit any request for correction to this Filing Receipt with your reply to the Notice. When the USPTO processes the reply to the Notice, the USPTO will generate another Filing Receipt incorporating the requested corrections provided that the request is grantable.

Inventor(s)

Donald Eugene Sychra, McDonough, GA;

Applicant(s)

Donald Eugene Sychra, McDonough, GA;

Power of Attorney: None

Permission to Access Application via Priority Document Exchange: No

Permission to Access Search Results: No

Applicant may provide or rescind an authorization for access using Form PTO/SB/39 or Form PTO/SB/69 as appropriate.

If Required, Foreign Filing License Granted: 05/19/2020

The country code and number of your priority application, to be used for filing abroad under the Paris Convention, is **US 63/101,413**

Projected Publication Date: None, application is not eligible for pre-grant publication

Non-Publication Request: No

Early Publication Request: No

**** MICRO ENTITY ****

Title

Vehicle deceleration indicator lamp

Statement under 37 CFR 1.55 or 1.78 for AIA (First Inventor to File) Transition Applications: No

PROTECTING YOUR INVENTION OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

Since the rights granted by a U.S. patent extend only throughout the territory of the United States and have no effect in a foreign country, an inventor who wishes patent protection in another country must apply for a patent in a specific country or in regional patent offices. Applicants may wish to consider the filing of an international application under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). An international (PCT) application generally has the same effect as a regular national patent application in each PCT-member country. The PCT process **simplifies** the filing of patent applications on the same invention in member countries, but **does not result** in a grant of "an international patent" and does not eliminate the need of applicants to file additional documents and fees in countries where patent protection is desired.

Almost every country has its own patent law, and a person desiring a patent in a particular country must make an application for patent in that country in accordance with its particular laws. Since the laws of many countries differ in various respects from the patent law of the United States, applicants are advised to seek guidance from specific foreign countries to ensure that patent rights are not lost prematurely.

Applicants also are advised that in the case of inventions made in the United States, the Director of the USPTO must issue a license before applicants can apply for a patent in a foreign country. The filing of a U.S. patent application serves as a request for a foreign filing license. The application's filing receipt contains further information and guidance as to the status of applicant's license for foreign filing.

Applicants may wish to consult the USPTO booklet, "General Information Concerning Patents" (specifically, the section entitled "Treaties and Foreign Patents") for more information on timeframes and deadlines for filing foreign patent applications. The guide is available either by contacting the USPTO Contact Center at 800-786-9199, or it can be viewed on the USPTO website at <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/doc/general/index.html>.

For information on preventing theft of your intellectual property (patents, trademarks and copyrights), you may wish to consult the U.S. Government website, <http://www.stopfakes.gov>. Part of a Department of Commerce initiative, this website includes self-help "toolkits" giving innovators guidance on how to protect intellectual property in specific countries such as China, Korea and Mexico. For questions regarding patent enforcement issues, applicants may call the U.S. Government hotline at 1-866-999-HALT (1-866-999-4258).

LICENSE FOR FOREIGN FILING UNDER

Title 35, United States Code, Section 184

Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 5.11 & 5.15

GRANTED

The applicant has been granted a license under 35 U.S.C. 184, if the phrase "IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED" followed by a date appears on this form. Such licenses are issued in all applications where the conditions for issuance of a license have been met, regardless of whether or not a license may be required as set forth in 37 CFR 5.15. The scope and limitations of this license are set forth in 37 CFR 5.15(a) unless an earlier

license has been issued under 37 CFR 5.15(b). The license is subject to revocation upon written notification. The date indicated is the effective date of the license, unless an earlier license of similar scope has been granted under 37 CFR 5.13 or 5.14.

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NOT GRANTED

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SelectUSA

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Specification (Description of the Invention)

Inventor: Donald Eugene Sychra

Title of Invention: Vehicle Deceleration Indicator Lamp

I submit that in the manufacturing of new vehicles, a lamp needs to be installed in the center of the grill on the front of the vehicle.

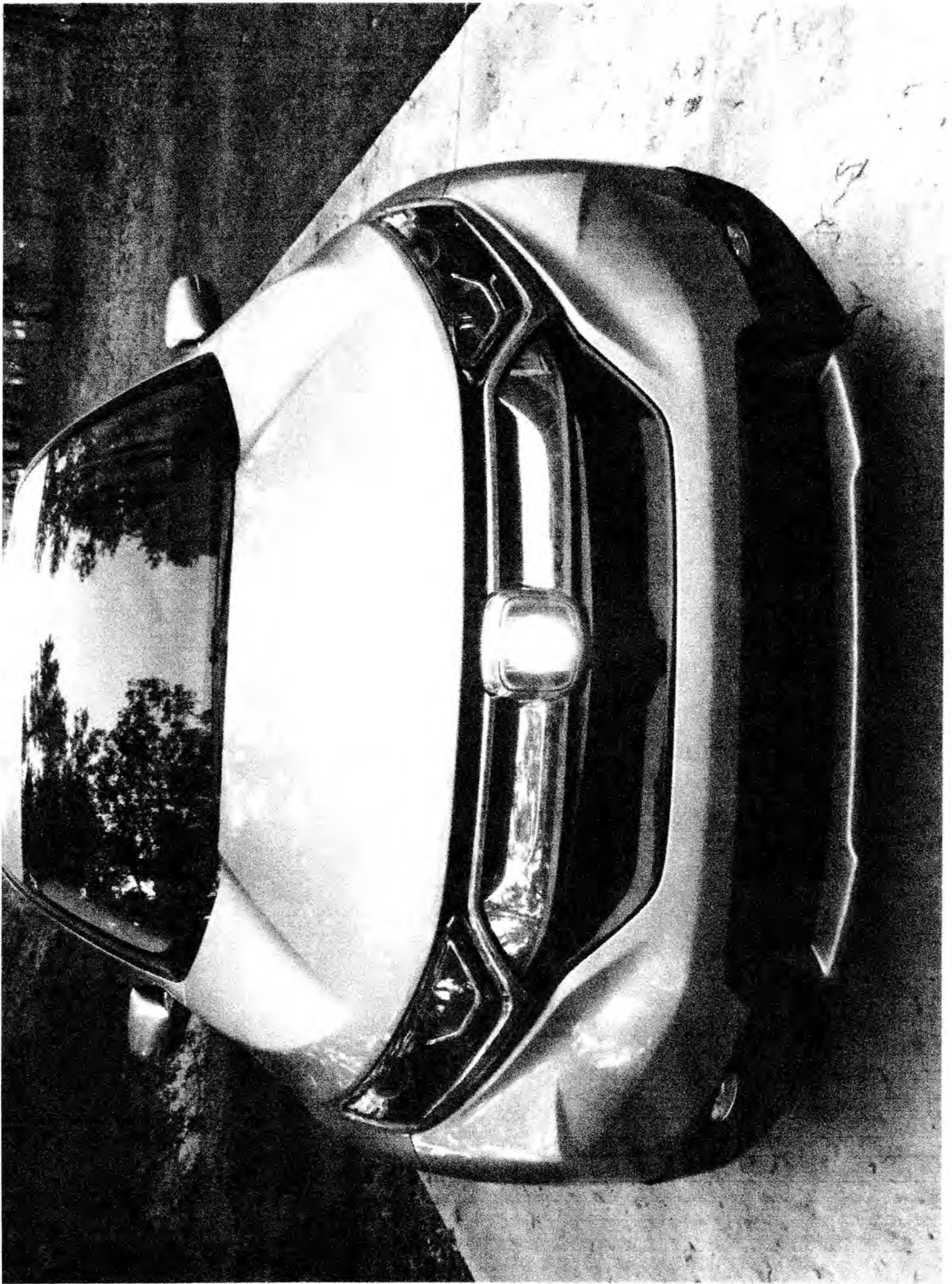
The grounded lamp requires a wire connecting the fuse box to a switch added to the transmission shift lever. From the switch added to the transmission shift lever the wire connects to a switch added to the acceleration pedal. From the switch added to the acceleration pedal the wire connects to the grounded lamp in the center of the grill on the front of the vehicle.

The lamp will come on when the vehicle is started and in a forward gear position. The lamp does not function in the reverse gear. When the vehicle operator places his/her foot on the accelerator pedal the lamp turns off.

The lamp activates again when the vehicle operator takes his/her foot off the accelerator pedal.

The following are potential safety factors associated with the lamp:

1. When the lamp is on, pedestrians will be alerted to the fact that the vehicle is slowing down and/or stopping.
2. When the lamp is on, emergency vehicles (police, fire, ambulance) arriving at an intersection will be alerted that oncoming vehicles are slowing down and/or stopping.
3. When the lamp is on, a vehicle at an intersection will be alerted that an approaching vehicle is slowing down and/or stopping.





Don Sychra <donsychra@gmail.com>

Specific Directions for Filing a Petition

1 message

Don Sychra <donsychra@gmail.com>

Thu, May 7, 2020 at 4:07 PM

To: ovscpublic@dot.gov

I am seeking to file a petition for rulemaking with respect to a motor vehicle safety standard.

Under normal business , I understand I am to mail my petition to: Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street SW, Washington, DC 20590.

However; due to business operations as affected by COVID-19, I understand changes have occurred.

Please respond with specific directions to file a petition.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Donald Sychra