

Comment from Ethan Klussman

Posted by the **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration** on Apr 17, 2023

The Whistleblower Provisions of the Vehicle Safety Act is a much needed amendment. In reviewing the proposed rule, I have a concern with the process that the administrator gets to have sole discretion on the amount of the award. While setting the award standard to be between 10% to 30% is generous, especially in large settlements, it appears to be objective based on the bias of the administration. Additionally, setting the minimum settlement amount to receive an award only if the penalty is above one million dollars can be limiting as well. Having a well defined award matrix leaves objective bias out of the equation and provides a fair and consistent structure to these awards. It would be beneficial to consider awarded whistleblowers for information leading to civil penalties regardless of the settlement amount. This would place value on all original information that protects the welfare of our traveling public.