

TESTIMONY OF BRIAN RIDER, PRESIDENT AND CEO, PENNSYLVANIA
RETAILERS ASSOCIATION

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND THE HOUSE
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

JUNE 2, 2011, PHILADELPHIA CONVENTION CENTER

IN FAVOR OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE OWNERS' RIGHT TO REPAIR ACT

Mr. Chairmen and Members of the Committee:

My name is Brian Rider and I am President and CEO of the Pennsylvania Retailers Association.

The Pennsylvania Retail Association is the premier retail trade association in Pennsylvania whose 1,500 members consists of small and large independent retailers as well as the national retail chains, like AutoZone.

I appear today in support of consumer choice and competition. Both of which are promoted in the proposed legislation known as the Vehicle Owners Right to Repair Act.

Everyday consumers in the Commonwealth shop for value, quality and best price. For some consumers, it's all about price. Imagine just one source for clothing, one source for shoes, one source for groceries, and one source for sporting goods. That is what will eventually happen in the auto parts and service business if something like Right to Repair is not enacted.

Our economy thrives on competition. The retailers compete everyday for the consumers business. The winners are the ones who provide a consistent and high level of customer service and can deliver quality goods at a reasonable price. If there were no competition, the consumer loses.

As you have already heard this morning that is what is happening in the automotive aftermarket. The car manufacturers are not providing the same information or as much diagnostic, repair and service information to the neighborhood repair facilities as they are to their new car dealers. What happens? Eventually, the independent garages go away. The vehicle owners are inconvenienced and forced to pay higher prices and thousands of jobs are lost.

One side note. The retail industry, like almost every industry in this country, was built by entrepreneurs, dreamers who took a risk. From Wal-Mart to Home Depot, to the Hallmark shop on Main Street. Someone had a dream, scrapped the capital together and built a business providing goods and services and, most importantly, employment.

Without Right to Repair, those automotive technicians or independent business men and women who dreamed of opening up their own garage will never realize that dream. The entrepreneurial sprit that made the automotive aftermarket will be gone.

I urge you to support Right to Repair. It is the Right thing for our consumers, it is the right thing for our independent businesses that are the backbone of our economy.

Thanks you and I will be happy to answers any questions from the committee.