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Tire Dealers Association of Western PA

The Honorable Richard Geist
Chairman, House Transportation Committee
The Honorable Robert Godshall
Chairman, House Consumer Affairs Committee

Dear Chairmen Godshall and Geist

I am writing today as President of the Tire Dealers Association of Western Pennsylvania. The vast majority of our membership is in the auto repair business and they overwhelmingly support and applaud our home state's efforts to pass significant right to repair legislation.

Every year, more modern cars and light trucks depend on advanced technology to monitor and control virtually every function of a motor vehicle: brakes; steering; airbags; ignition and fuel delivery, among others. In order to successfully diagnose and perform basic repairs, car owners and independent car repair shops need full access to the information, software and proper tools designed for these advanced systems. However, vehicle manufacturers are making it increasingly difficult for independent repair shops to access this information.

We have long been supporters of this legislation at the federal level through our affiliation with the Tire Industry Association. However, Congress thus far has failed to enact legislation; and therefore it is now more important than ever for the Pennsylvania Legislature to take action to ensure competition for the state's car owners. Absent competition, car owners will be forced to franchised dealers which will increase repair costs and reduce convenience.

Specifically, right to repair would:

Require vehicle manufacturers to provide at a reasonable price, the same service information, tools and capabilities to independent shops that are offered to franchised dealer networks, particularly for repairing and maintaining late model computer controlled vehicle systems;

Restore the right of consumers to have their vehicle serviced and maintained at the repair facility of their choice.

Right to repair would not:

Affect the dealer's warranty agreement with the vehicle manufacturers; or
Require manufacturers to disclose manufacturing processes or trade secrets.

Thank you for holding a hearing on this issue which is critical to our industry and to Pennsylvania consumers. We urge you to pass right to repair legislation as soon as possible.

Ronald Brutt
President