



**Ford Motor Company Testimony in support of LD 1911
(An Act Concerning Automotive Right to Repair)
Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Development and
Business**

Tuesday, May 23, 2023

Senator Curry, Representative Roberts and members of the Joint Select Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business my name is Andy Cashman. I am the Founder of Resolve Government Relations. We represent Ford Motor Company.

Ford Motor Company is an American multinational automobile manufacturer with approximately 200,000 employees in 125 countries. However, we are first and foremost an American company. We have over 86,000 employees in the U.S., and we assemble more vehicles in the U.S. than any other auto manufacturer.

Ford supports 1911. This bill requires auto manufacturers to provide the same vehicle diagnostic and repair information it provides to dealers to independent repair facilities and vehicle owners, which is important for customer choice. This bill codifies a framework we voluntarily put into place with independent repair facilities more than a decade ago, and we continue to enhance as vehicle systems and information evolve over time.

Ford is committed to the customer's right to repair vehicles anywhere they choose. Today, as has been true for decades, Ford's customers, including in Maine, have access to the information needed to repair their vehicles as well as the ability to take them to a service provider of their choice to be diagnosed and repaired. LD 1911 would protect their right to repair without weakening or putting their vehicle and its systems at risk.

This bill continues the unrestricted access to the various tools, information, and data needed to repair vehicles for independent repair facilities. It requires a manufacturer of automobiles to make available to the owner of an automobile and independent repair facilities, the same diagnostic and repair information that the manufacturer makes available to its dealers through an online or other electronically accessible manufacturer's diagnostic and repair information system.

LD 1911 details a necessarily robust process for providing access to the information required to repair a vehicle, while also providing for the necessary safety and security protocols required for auto manufacturers to meet federal safety standards. This is a critical component of the law. It protects safety critical systems, especially against cybersecurity risks. These are important to help protect the driver and everyone that shares the open road.

In addition, this law provides for a support and dispute resolution process, where an independent repair facility or owner who is having trouble finding information or believes they're not receiving the information they need to repair a vehicle can seek that information from the manufacturer. It also provides for an enforcement mechanism through the Attorney General if that information is not provided. For these reasons, we support LD 1911 and respectfully urge you to vote Ought to Pass. Thank you for your time and consideration.