

RE: Written Testimony and Objection to LD 1468

Dear Honorable Members of the Committee,

The Auto Care Association respectfully opposes LD 1468. The Auto Care Association is a national trade organization comprised of more than 3000-member companies and affiliates that manufacture, distribute, and sell aftermarket motor vehicle parts, accessories, services, tools, equipment, materials, and supplies. The Auto Care Association is the voice of the auto care industry – a \$516 billion plus industry comprised of more than 4.7 million American professionals. In Maine, our industry includes 8,361 jobs, generates \$2.9 billion in economic activity, and provides \$581.7 million in wages.

LD 1468 is a solution in search of a problem. It imposes extensive regulation and compliance costs on independent repair shops – shops that today perform approximately 70% of post-warranty vehicle repairs in the United States at an average of 36% less cost than dealerships. The regulations and compliance costs created by LD 1468 could drive independent shops out of business only to the benefit of auto manufacturers and their dealerships. Maine vehicle owners would lose accessible, affordable repair options for their cars and small businesses at a time when the economy can least support it.

The right-to-repair working group discussed training and standards in relation to right-to-repair. The auto manufacturers presented this idea as a reason why independent repairers should not possess the right-to-repair vehicles that utilize telematics. This position is transparent – it is nothing more than a way to drive repair business to dealerships and away from independent shops.

The aftermarket has been successfully and affordably maintaining and repairing cars and trucks for over 100 years. This bill would impose restrictions and obligations that would jeopardize the existence of these repair facilities only to the benefit of the dealerships. Competition and consumer choice drives the quality service and cost-effective processes used in independent repair shops around Maine today. Putting a thumb on the scales in favor of dealerships will only help dealerships.

In conclusion, we respectfully request that the Committee vote no on LD 1468.

Sincerely,

Lisa Foshee

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SVP – Government Affairs and General Counsel