

Jeffrey Groves
Yarmouth
LD 1468

Testimony in Opposition to LD 1468 - An Act to Establish Standards for Independent Motor Vehicle Repair Facilities in Maine

My name is Jeffrey Groves. I live in Yarmouth, Maine. I am a retired lawyer that served as General Counsel to O'Reilly Auto Parts. I oppose LD 1468. I also served on the Maine Attorney General's working group regarding right-to-repair as the representative of aftermarket retailers and distributors.

During the 5 or so months that the working group met and discussed right-to-repair, this notion of standards was presented as a reason why independent repairers should not possess the right-to-repair vehicles that utilize telematics. The argument was advanced by the auto dealers who are seeking additional ways to take business from independent repair shops and auto parts distributors and retailers and to drive that business to their own shops. This bill suggests that vehicles are becoming more sophisticated. That is true. It has been true over time and the use of telematics is simply the next evolution of technology. However, the repair codes generated by vehicles now are the same as those that have existed for years without the need for the creation of new barriers for independent repairers.

Independent repairers in Maine have been providing professional services to car owners ever since there were cars. This bill presents additional hurdles and barriers to business that do not now exist not have, in the past, existed. This bill represents an attempt to cripple small independent Maine repair businesses by creating these additional barriers to repair, many of which are controlled by the automakers. There is no need for this law and certainly no need for this law on an emergency basis. The bill seeks to aid manufacturer's dealers in creating a world in which they have a monopoly on repair business, the sale of parts and to have the ability to monetize the repair of motor vehicles past the manufacturer's warranty period by creating these rules, tied to standards the manufacturers create, that are and will continue to be designed in their favor and against the independent repair and parts businesses in Maine.

This bill is anti-consumers choice, it is anti-small business and seeks only to aid large corporate automakers to keep consumers from having a choice in repair and parts all while creating a monopoly for both. I urge your opposition to this unnecessary bill.

Jeffrey Groves