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Hello. My name is Lawrence Wescott, and I am a veteran and teacher living in the town of Berwick.

I own several vehicles - for work, for pleasure - and each year it is a laborious process to inspect each vehicle. Taking time from work is difficult, but the process is made even harder by the rather disjointed network of Inspection Stations across the State.

Often it is necessary to interrupt a mechanic while he/she is working to ask (beg) for him/her to take a moment to inspect your vehicle. Many times I'm told "come back tomorrow" or "I'm out of stickers this month" necessitating another trip or the search for another Inspection Station.

We've all experienced the "Up-sell" technique where the mechanic finds 'something' wrong with my vehicle - a questionable windshield wiper, loose trim, or "moisture" on a shock indicating its imminent failure - it was a rainy day - "and we can remedy that for the low, low price of \$750."

I've been told by many mechanics that the State Inspection Sticker - at a reasonable \$12.50 - is merely a scheme to get customers' vehicles into the inspection bay where the opportunity exists for more business. And business is good in this respect. I've purchased several rear wipers for my station wagon, whether it needed them or not, in order to get a 'sticker.'

Although virtually ANY part of a car could be deemed an "Inspection Item", the only thing that REALLY counts is whether it can stop when necessary. I think we can all agree that this is of utmost importance.

Cars are engineered and manufactured far better than they were decades ago when our archaic "once-per-year" inspection laws were written. In these tough economic times, it is time to bring them kicking and screaming into the 21st Century. Please support modifying or eliminating our State Vehicle Inspection Law. Thank you for your time.