



April 6, 2021

Maine Committee on Transportation  
c/o Legislative Information Office  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

**RE: LD 796, An Act To Restrict Sales of Catalytic Converters Removed from Motor Vehicles**

Dear Chairman Diamond and Martin:

As the Government Affairs Manager for LKQ Corporation in the Northeast I respectfully ask you to **oppose and vote NO on LD 796 as drafted**. LD 796 is set to be heard before the Committee on Transportation on April 6, 2021. The theft of catalytic converters is an issue that is in the spotlight throughout the country. It is an issue that needs to be addressed however, **limiting the sale of catalytic converters to holders of inspection mechanic certificates restricts automobile recyclers, like LKQ, from selling catalytic converters which have been legally acquired via the vehicles we acquire for recycling.**

LKQ is the largest auto recycler in the country. Last year we recycled over 800,000 vehicles. We resell all the salvagable parts and the remaining material is sold to scrap metal processors. The catalytic converters we remove are sold separately to smelter processors so that they can be properly recycled. We do not buy catalytic converters which are not attached to vehicles. The majority of the vehicles we acquire are bought through total loss auctions and the remainder are bought while adhering to all applicable State laws. LD 796 has the unintended consequence of restricting the way LKQ and other auto recyclers dispose of catalytic converters which is a by-product of the auto recycling process.

LKQ Corporation, an S&P 500 company, is a leading provider of alternative and specialty parts to repair and accessorize automobiles and other vehicles. We offer our customers a broad range of replacement systems, components, equipment, parts and services to repair, calibrate, and accessorize automobiles, trucks, and recreational and performance vehicles. We employ 20,000 people nationwide and operates more than 460 facilities in more than 44 states. LKQ has 4 facilities in Maine located in Bangor, Gardiner, Gorham, and Westbrook, and pays taxes on payroll of more than \$36.6 Million.

As Chairmen of the Committee on Transportation, I hope you will recognize the problems LD 796 creates and the detriments it poses to the automotive recycling industry in Maine. As an industry we have been in communication with the Senator Timberlake and have made recommendations such as limiting sellers of detached catalytic converters to licensed businesses or individuals or entities who hold title to the vehicle from which a catalytic converter was

removed. We hope these recommendations will alleviate his concerns. I look forward to working with the Committee going forward however, if no changes are made, I ask you to **oppose and vote NO on LD 796.**

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. I can be reached at (305) 720-1877.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andreas Heiss', written in a cursive style.

Andreas Heiss  
Government Affairs Representative  
LKQ Corporation