



March 7, 2007

The Honorable Joseph J. Roberts, Jr.
Speaker of the General Assembly
New Jersey State Legislature
125 West State Street
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Speaker Roberts:

At the request of your office, our associations have thoroughly reviewed A. 931 and appreciate the opportunity to work with you to find a voluntary solution to the issues outlined in the legislation. Manufacturers are committed to providing independent repairers with the same service and training information that is provided to franchised dealerships. We view independent repairers as our partners in vehicle repair. Indeed, roughly seventy-five percent of all post warranty repairs are performed by independent repairers.

In September, 2002, our associations pledged and have delivered on the following commitment:

Automobile manufacturers hereby commit to make available, by August 31, 2003, emission and non-emission-related service information, training information, and diagnostic tools in the same manner and to the same extent as specified by California Air Resources Board (CARB) regulations for emission-related systems and components. This means that 1) the same service and training information related to vehicle repair will be made available to independent repair shops either via the internet, or in the same manner and extent as it is made available to franchised dealerships and 2) the same diagnostic tools related to vehicle repair that are made available to the franchised dealers will be made available to the independent repair shops. These will be made available at a reasonable price consistent with the guidelines provided in CARB regulations. The service and training information and manufacturer tools will be available to independent repair shops without the need for them to return to a franchised dealership (to the extent allowed by law).

The entity implementing this national, voluntary solution known as, the National Automotive Task Force (NASTF), has proven to be an effective resource for repairers and manufacturers alike. There is no evidence to support the claim that independent technicians are being denied information. In fact, out of the approximately 500 million repairs that took place nationally in 2006, the task force received only 38 inquiries for additional information. The National Automotive Service Task Force continues to provide a forum for industry and aftermarket to resolve service information issues.

Independent technicians currently have access to all the service information that is available to dealers through sources such as automaker websites and third-party providers (some of which include members of the CARE coalition). Links to all

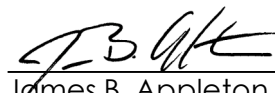
automaker websites are easily accessible from the NASTF website at <http://nastf.org>. Nonetheless, we are willing to work with you to determine whether a problem exists in New Jersey as the supporters of this bill claim. We propose the following options: (1) an independent study seeking to identify the existence/nature of the perceived problem, or (2) a voluntarily created and funded, independent "ombudsman" or other intermediary tasked with the responsibility of resolving any complaints by the aftermarket as well as reporting to the industry and the legislature on the nature and volume of complaints.

We strongly believe that the existence of automaker service information websites, other third-party service information providers and the NASTF problem resolution process, as well as the successful implementation of one of the additional proposals outlined above, preclude the need for this legislation. Our current and previous commitments demonstrate our recognition of the need for fairness and open competition in the automotive service industry and to consumer choice in seeking these services. We appreciate your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,




Dave McCurdy
President & CEO
Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, Inc.



James B. Appleton
President
NJ CAR



Michael J. Stanton
President and CEO
Association of International Automobile
Manufacturers, Inc.



Ron Pyle
President & CEO
Automotive Service Association