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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-4306

January 28, 2003

Make Information to Repair Cars Available to All

Dear Colleague:

I am writing to urge your cosponsorship for H.R. 2735, "The Motor Vehicle Owners' Right to Repair Act." In short, this bill seeks to restore the ability of motor vehicle owners to choose where they repair their vehicles, whether it is an independent garage or dealership, and whether they would like repairs to be conducted with original or non-original automobile parts.

Motorists have enjoyed these choices almost since the beginning of the automobile, but new vehicle On-Board Diagnostic computer systems, originally required by the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments, have made it more difficult for some repair facilities to get the information they need to make the repair. This limits the options for American drivers.

As competition becomes restricted, it can cause higher prices for repairs and parts replacement. H.R. 2735 in no way attempts to restrict motorists from patronizing car dealership repair shops. For some, this may be the best option. Rather, HR 2735 ensures that a motorist has options when deciding where to bring their car for repairs or what part they want to use by requiring that non-proprietary information needed to repair these diagnostic computer systems is made readily available.

Many organizations are now supporting H.R. 2735, including the American Automobile Association (AAA), which recently stated, "when a car buyer drives off the lot, they've bought more than just the vehicle, they should also own the information necessary to have it diagnosed and repaired. AAA believes that H.R. 2735 ensures that consumers can choose the kind of service that is best suited for their particular needs."

If you would like to have your name added to the list of cosponsors, please contact Theresa Lavery at 5-2002.

Sincerely,

Joe Barton
Member of Congress

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