



The Voice of Small Business®

June 4, 2003

The Honorable Joe Barton
2109 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Barton:

On behalf of the 600,000 members of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), I am writing in strong support of the "Motor Vehicle Owner's Right to Repair Act." It is our understanding that this bill will soon be introduced and designated as H.R. 2735.

The Motor Vehicle Owner's Right to Repair Act restores the right of consumers to have their vehicle serviced at the repair facility of their choosing, and to decide whether they would like their car fixed with original or aftermarket automobile parts. While car owners have taken these rights for granted for decades, passage of the Clean Air Act in 1990 created hurdles for consumers. The act mandated that all vehicles manufactured after the 1994 model year utilize an on-board computer diagnostic system to monitor emissions, which has made it much more difficult for independent repair shops to get the information necessary for safe vehicle repairs.

Today, automobiles have numerous computer systems on-board that control the braking, ignition, security, steering, emissions, safety and climate control systems. By granting consumers access to the information necessary to diagnose problems associated with computer-controlled systems, H.R. 2735 provides consumers the ability to choose how and where they want their vehicles repaired.

Restoring competition to the marketplace is good for the consumer and good for business. It is important to note that H.R. 2735 does not require automobile manufacturers to disclose any trade secrets or proprietary information, and does not affect their warranty agreements with their dealer network.

By restoring competition to the automobile repair market, the Motor Vehicle Owner's Right to Repair Act will help protect consumers and small businesses. NFIB strongly endorses your efforts to restore choice to the automobile repair and parts market

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Danner", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Dan Danner
Senior Vice President
Federal Public Policy