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February 12, 2020

Maryland House of Delegates
Judiciary Committee
Room 101
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Support for H.B. 1148

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee:

On behalf of the Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA), I am writing to request your support for H.B. 1148, which would amend the Maryland Code to create a registration process for surplus military vehicles.

Representing the \$45 billion specialty automotive industry, SEMA is a trade association made up of approximately 7,500 mostly small businesses nationwide, including 77 in Maryland, that manufacture, market and sell specialty automotive aftermarket products, including restoration, appearance, performance, comfort, convenience and technology products for motor vehicles. SEMA also hosts the SEMA Show, which is the largest annual gathering of small businesses in the country.

H.B. 1148 defines “Military Surplus Vehicle” in Maryland Code as a multipurpose wheeled vehicle that was manufactured for military usage that was manufactured by or under the direction of the United States Armed Forces or any other country and was subsequently authorized for sale to civilians. By including “Military Surplus Vehicle” in the code, the bill allows for the registration of a military vehicle if the vehicle passes a safety inspection. Additionally, such vehicles would be limited in use, and not use for general transportation or commercial purposes.

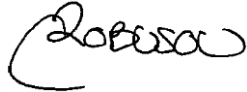
In recent years, the restoration and modification of surplus military vehicles has grown in popularity amongst consumers, with several states enacting similar laws. H.B. 1148 would benefit SEMA’s member companies in Maryland by helping to create a new marketplace for their products and services. Additionally, vehicles decommissioned by the U.S. government have captivated generations. Upon retirement from service, their ability to evoke national pride and serve as living history is

undeniably powerful. For these reasons, SEMA requests your support for this legislation.

If you have any questions, or require additional information please feel free to contact me by phone at (202) 794-8279 or by e-mail at christianr@sema.org.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robinson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Christian Robinson
Director, State Government Affairs
Specialty Equipment Market Association