



WMDA/CAR Service Station and Automotive Repair Association

March 8, 2023

Chair: C.T. Wilson
Members of Economic Matters Committee

RE: HB1193
Position: Favorable

While independent repair facilities are our neighbors, community supporters, and a place to repair or service your vehicle close to home, their future could be in jeopardy.

Manufacturers started installing proprietary interfaces to download diagnostic repair and service information. Depending on manufacturer they have also installed wireless communication called Telematics Systems. Telematics sends information from vehicles to a manufacturer or manufacturer's franchised dealer. Information about vehicle operating systems and vehicle needs are transmitted to a remote point designated by the manufacturer.

This not only hurts independent repair facilities but costs consumers time and higher repair costs. Owners bought or leased the vehicle; they should have their choice of who receives information. Independent repair facilities should have the same access to repair information and tools at the same costs as manufacturer's franchised dealers at a reasonable price.

With the mandates for electric vehicles ever increasing and technology changing by the day it's imperative that information is available to all. Consumers need to know that the vehicle they purchase can be serviced in their community, which might be a dealer or their regular independent repair facility.

Please give HB1193 a favorable Report

WMDA/CAR is a trade association that has represented service stations, convenience stores and repair shops since 1937. Any questions can be addressed to Kirk McCauley, 301-775-0221 or kmccauley@wmda.net