

March 8, 2023

STATEMENT OF  
THE TIRE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
IN SUPPORT OF H.B. 1193  
BEFORE THE  
MARYLAND HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
ROOM 231  
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401

Dear Chair Wilson and members of the Economic Matters Committee,

I respectfully submit this statement on behalf of over 300 Maryland businesses that are members of the Tire Industry Association (TIA).

The Tire Industry Association is an international non-profit association representing all segments of the tire industry, including those that manufacture, repair, recycle, sell, service or use new or retreaded tires, and also those suppliers or individuals who furnish equipment, material or services to the industry.

The mission of TIA is to promote tire safety through training and education, to act as the principal advocate in government affairs and to enhance the image and professionalism of the industry so that our member businesses may be more successful.

TIA has more than 13,000 members from all 50 states and around the globe. As the industry leader in tire service technician training, TIA has educated more than 180,000 people since 1997.

The Tire Industry Association is headquartered in Bowie, Maryland.

TIA is part of a diverse coalition of stakeholders in the motor vehicle repair and maintenance sector who share a common interest in right to repair.

TIA supports House Bill 1193.

H.B. 1193, addresses the right to repair issue on the state level by requiring a manufacturer that sells motor vehicles with telematics systems to install an open data platform in certain motor vehicles.

New vehicles require access to critical parts, tools, and repair and maintenance data to properly service and complete repairs and routine maintenance.

The legislation would give Maryland vehicle owners secure access to critical data so the service center of their choosing can replace parts and repair their vehicles.

H.B. 1193, will update existing laws to reflect the modernization of automobiles and the importance of consumer choice in auto repair. The legislation is written to foster a competitive environment for vehicle repair while prioritizing cybersecurity and safety for vehicle systems.

Automobiles are like computers on wheels, and access to vehicle telematics data, which is wirelessly transmitted to the vehicle manufacturer, is essential to vehicle maintenance and repair.



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Modern cars and trucks contain advanced technology that monitors or controls virtually every function of the vehicle including: brakes, steering, air bags, fuel delivery, ignition, lubrication, theft prevention, emission controls and soon, tire pressure.

Car and truck owners, as well as the facilities that repair these vehicles need full access to the information, parts and tools necessary to accurately diagnose, repair or re-program these systems.

House Bill 1193 would preserve consumer access to high quality, affordable vehicle repair by ensuring that vehicle owners and independent repair shops have equal access to repair and maintenance tools and data as car companies and licensed dealerships.

H.B. 1193, will reduce the repair access barriers when working on electric vehicles (EV's).

Our members who repair vehicles need access to the vehicle's mechanical data and the Maryland consumer should have the right to decide where that data goes.

Small, independent repair shops in Maryland should have the right to compete with the large, franchised dealers. Small Maryland businesses should not be frozen out to the detriment of their communities and customers.

Allowing these small businesses access to all of the tools, software and repair information necessary to be able to test and repair all systems on modern automobiles is essential to keeping the shop lights on and costs down for consumers.

Without legislation, Maryland vehicles owners will have fewer repair options, face longer wait times, and pay higher prices when they repair their vehicle.

Right to repair remains a top priority for TIA members in Maryland and H.B. 1193 would provide for much needed clarity and direction in vehicle repair.

Maryland has the opportunity to lead the nation on the automotive right to repair issue.

We ask that the House Economic Matters committee pass this bill to provide Maryland repair facilities with access to diagnostic data and guarantee consumers can continue to choose where, how, and with what parts to repair their vehicle.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Roy Littlefield IV  
Vice President of Government Affairs  
Tire Industry Association



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