



March 3, 2023  
Honorable C.T. Wilson  
231 Taylor House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

## **RE: HB 1193, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES RIGHT TO REPAIR**

Dear Chairman Wilson:

As the Government Affairs Manager for LKQ Corporation in the Northeast I respectfully ask you to support HB 1193 which is set to be heard before the House Committee on Economic Matters on March 8, 2023. HB 1193 protects a consumer's right to choose. It allows the consumer to decide where, when and by whom they have their vehicle repaired.

LKQ has over 250 employees at 14 Maryland facilities located in Baltimore, Easton, Edgewood, Glen Burnie, Halethorpe, Jessup, Mount Airy, Queen Anne, and Williamsport. LKQ Corporation, an S&P 500 company, is a leading provider of alternative and specialty parts to repair and accessorize automobiles and other vehicles. We offer our customers a broad range of replacement systems, components, equipment, parts and services to repair, calibrate, and accessorize automobiles, trucks, and recreational and performance vehicles. We employ 15,000 people nationwide and operate more than 440 facilities in 46 states.

As the technology in vehicles has become increasingly advanced, auto manufacturers have found ways to restrict access to vehicles' necessary repair and maintenance data. These restrictions squeeze independent repair shops out of the market, limiting repair options, impacting consumer safety, and raising costs for the Maryland consumer. Specifically, HB 1193 addresses these emerging barriers and supports consumer choice by:

- Leveling the playing field to give independent repair shops an equal opportunity to compete in the automotive aftermarket. At least 37% of the vehicles in the U.S. have at least one repair affected by limited data access<sup>1</sup>. When access to necessary data is restricted, independent repair shops cannot complete proper repairs and maintenance.
- Lowering repair costs for Maryland drivers who need it most. On average, consumers spend 36% more on repair at dealerships than at an independent repair shop<sup>2</sup>. Higher repair costs will further hurt Maryland families already struggling against inflation, high fuel prices, supply chain issues, and product backorders.
- Promoting vehicle safety on the roads by increasing repair options for consumers. The average age of a vehicle today is 12 years old, and 77% of vehicles on the road are older than

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<sup>1</sup> Research and Market Observations on Automotive Repair Restrictions, April 2019

<sup>2</sup> Massachusetts Vehicle Repair Cost Study, October 20, 2020

<sup>3</sup> IHS Markit and Roland Berger



seven years<sup>3</sup>. Without sufficient access to repair options, service on these older vehicles will likely be delayed putting Maryland drivers at risk.

- Preventing even longer repair times for Maryland consumers who depend on their vehicles. Restricting necessary repair and maintenance data would exacerbate supply chain disruptions that have already caused months-long repairs in the aftermath of the pandemic.

As the Chairman of this committee, I hope you will recognize the problems that limited data access presents in the automotive aftermarket, independent repairers, and Maryland Consumers. It is paramount to keep drivers safe on the road, and HB 1193 protects consumer choice and consumer access to high quality and affordable vehicle repair. On behalf of LKQ Corporation I ask you to please consider the positive impact this legislation would make in the lives of Maryland drivers and independent repair shops.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. I can be reached at (305) 720-1877.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andreas Heiss'.

Andreas Heiss  
Government Affairs Representative  
LKQ Corporation

Cc: Bruce Bereano

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