



February 11, 2025

Maryland House of Delegates
Economic Matters Committee
Room 231
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: SEMA Support for HB 843

Dear Members of the Economic Matters Committee:

On behalf of the Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA), I am writing to express support for House Bill (HB) 843 (Hornberger), which seeks to protect Marylanders' rights to decide where and with what parts their vehicles are repaired and maintained.

Representing the \$52 billion specialty automotive industry, SEMA is a trade association made up of approximately 7,000 mostly small businesses nationwide, including 67 in Maryland, that manufacture, market, and sell specialty automotive aftermarket products, including restoration, appearance, performance, comfort, convenience, and technology products for motor vehicles.

Maryland has a thriving specialty automotive aftermarket industry. This industry significantly contributes to the state's economy, generating \$3.24 billion in economic impact. This translates to supporting 14,946 jobs, \$1.19 billion in total wages and benefits, and \$530.24 million in taxes paid.

As vehicle technology evolves, new barriers to working on your vehicle, independent automotive repair, and manufacturing replacement parts are emerging. While many aftermarket businesses and consumers rely on access to diagnostic data through the OBD-II port, they also need access to telematic data and information that is wirelessly transmitted directly to vehicle manufacturers. HB 843 ensures that vehicle owners and repair businesses have access to this information, which is critical to maintaining a competitive repair marketplace.

SEMA is also committed to protecting Marylanders' right to accessorize their cars and trucks by ensuring consumers and aftermarket companies have access to the information needed to recalibrate vehicles with Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) after they have been modified to ensure that features like automatic emergency braking and lane keep assist operate as intended—for example, after a trailer hitch and suspension kit have been installed so that the vehicle owner can tow a boat, a trailer, or an ATV.

SEMA-member companies have experienced unprecedented demand for their products in recent years. Simultaneously, specialty automotive manufacturers face obstacles in producing interoperable parts with these

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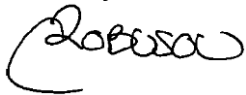
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emerging technologies. ADAS features help reduce traffic accidents and fatalities. It's important that vehicle owners and specialty aftermarket businesses have access to the information needed to recalibrate ADAS after a vehicle has been modified. This requires access to configurable vehicle parameters and customization settings to ensure the electronic control units (ECU) of a vehicle understand that it has been lifted or lowered, the grille has been modified, etc., to ensure that safety features like lane keep assist and automatic braking work as intended.

HB 843 is a significant first step toward ensuring Marylanders have the freedom to repair their vehicles. For these reasons, SEMA respectfully asks for your support.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please call (202) 794-8279 or e-mail me at christianr@sema.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robinson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Christian Robinson
Senior Director, State Government Affairs
Specialty Equipment Market Association