

March 6, 2026

STATEMENT OF
THE TIRE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
IN SUPPORT OF H.B. 1429
BEFORE THE
MARYLAND HOUSE ECONOMIC MATTERS COMMITTEE
ROOM 230
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401

Dear Chair Valderrama and Members of the 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 strongly supports House Bill 1429 and respectfully urges a favorable report.

While TIA supports the provisions of HB 1429 relating to both motor vehicles and farm equipment, our comments primarily focus on the automotive side of the legislation and its impact on independent tire dealers and automotive repair facilities across Maryland.

Modern motor vehicles are increasingly complex and technologically advanced. Routine services that were once purely mechanical now require access to electronic diagnostic tools, software updates, calibration systems, telematics data, and manufacturer-specific repair information. Even services as common as tire replacement often require recalibration of advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS), tire pressure monitoring systems (TPMS), electronic braking systems, and other integrated technologies.



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HB 1429 ensures that independent repair facilities have timely and affordable access to the same diagnostic and repair information available to authorized dealerships. This is critical for consumer choice and affordability. Without such access, vehicle owners are often left with no practical option but to return to dealerships for service, which can be more expensive and less convenient, particularly in rural and suburban areas.

This legislation empowers consumers by giving them the freedom to choose where their vehicle is serviced—whether at a dealership or a trusted local repair facility—without sacrificing safety, quality, or convenience. It protects consumers from unnecessary cost increases and provides access to competitive service options, supporting the principle that vehicle owners should control where and how their vehicles are repaired.

For TIA’s Maryland members—many of whom are small, family-owned businesses—access to repair information is not an abstract policy issue. It is essential to their ability to provide safe, reliable, and affordable services. These businesses invest heavily in technician training, tools, and equipment. Limiting access to manufacturer data and repair procedures undermines their ability to serve customers effectively and threatens local businesses that are integral to Maryland’s economy.

Proper access to repair information also enhances safety. Accurate procedures, calibration requirements, and system updates ensure vehicles are returned to the road in safe operating condition. Limiting independent access does not protect safety—it restricts it—while also reducing options and increasing costs for consumers.

HB 1429 provides clarity and predictability in the marketplace while safeguarding consumer interests. Independent repairers play a critical role in Maryland’s automotive service infrastructure, supporting local jobs, fostering competition, and giving consumers choice.

In conclusion, House Bill 1429 is a consumer protection bill at its core. By ensuring independent repair facilities have the same access to repair information as dealerships, it gives Maryland residents meaningful choices, promotes affordability, and strengthens local businesses.

On behalf of TIA’s Maryland members, I urge the Committee to give HB 1429 a favorable report.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Roy Littlefield IV
Vice President of Government Affairs
Tire Industry Association



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