

# Testimony on Senate Bill 365 / House Bill 1214

## Dealer Association Standing

### Maryland Automobile Dealers Association

Chairman, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present Senate Bill 365 / House Bill 1214.

My name is J. Peter Kitzmiller, and I am the President of the Maryland Automobile Dealers Association (MADA), which represents 300 franchised new car and truck dealers and more than 20,000 employees across the State of Maryland.

This is a straightforward enforcement bill. It ensures that Maryland's existing motor vehicle franchise and dealer licensing laws can be effectively enforced through the Office of Administrative Hearings.

Importantly, this Committee is very familiar with this issue — you passed this legislation two years ago.

In the current session, the Maryland Senate has passed Senate Bill 365 unanimously and sent it to the House.

The bill was also amended in the Senate, and we support that amendment. It provides that manufacturers have the same standing rights as dealer associations, ensuring that the bill is balanced and even-handed in its application.

#### ***What the Bill Does***

- 1 Allows a statewide dealer association to bring an action before the Office of Administrative Hearings
- 2 Permits an Administrative Law Judge to grant declaratory or injunctive relief
- 3 Provides a practical enforcement mechanism for laws the General Assembly has already enacted

#### ***What the Bill Does Not Do***

- 1 Does not create new dealer rights
- 2 Does not allow money damages
- 3 Does not create new lawsuits in court
- 4 Does not interfere with private contract disputes between manufacturers and dealers

For these reasons, the Maryland Automobile Dealers Association respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 365 / House Bill 1214.

Thank you.