

Wednesday, April 6, 2016

Representative Thomas Carmody
PO Box 94062
900 North 3rd Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear Representative Carmody:

I am writing to you to express concern over House Bill 559 introduced this Session by Representative Pierre. This bill would require the approval of the vehicle owner before installing certain aftermarket parts. The language used in this disclosure is misleading. It creates the erroneous impression that aftermarket parts are inferior as it raises doubts over the safety and efficacy of aftermarket parts with no basis. "Aftermarket" is not equivalent to "inferior". Many original equipment manufacturers make the identical part for their aftermarket customers. The only difference is the box the part comes in.

I am President of the Automotive Aftermarket Association Southeast. Our membership consists of auto parts distributors, tire dealers, body shops, machine shops, auto parts manufacturers and many other businesses making a living in the automotive aftermarket industry. To my knowledge, our members are all committed to manufacturing, distributing and installing only those parts, which meet or exceed Original Equipment (OE) specifications. It is also relevant to note that many new car dealers in the United States stock aftermarket products as a high quality, lesser cost alternative to OE parts in order to allow the dealerships to be competitive in servicing "all makes, models and aged vehicles" in their service bays.

Similar bills have been introduced across the country and were either withdrawn or defeated as people came to understand the very anti-competitive nature of such legislation. The consumer would most certainly lose as there would be no choice in the market place and prices for parts and insurance would increase. A non-competitive aftermarket would not only lead to lack of choice and higher costs but the consumer would also face a lack of availability of service as this bill would almost certainly lead to a decline in the number of independent repair shops.

The thousands of people that make their living in the Louisiana automotive aftermarket are counting on you to help defeat this legislation. I am available to you if you have questions or if I may be of service in any way.

Thanks for listening, and we hope we can count on your support.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Randal H. Ward". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Randal H Ward, CAE
President
Automotive Aftermarket Association Southeast