

The Right Honorable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada

RE: Consumer Right to Repair

Vehicle manufacturers are restricting access to the tools, training and diagnostic and repair software to independent installers, preventing them from repairing late model vehicles. This effectively eliminates consumer's choices.

Canada's automotive aftermarket industry is predominantly composed of small and medium-sized businesses (SME's) and is currently valued at 15.6 billion dollars annually. They provide Canada's 21 million motorists with real choice and they provide more than 220,000 people with employment that is well distributed across urban and rural environments throughout the country. SME entrepreneurs form the backbone of Canada's independent and multi-brand repair market and help to keep jobs in Canada, in contrast to the recent trend of outsourcing in global vehicle manufacturing. If this problem is not solved, many independent repair facilities will be forced to close.

The Automotive aftermarket typically serves the segment of the vehicle fleet that is six model years and older. The increase in the number electronically controlled components on newer vehicles is already having a negative impact on our industry. AIA has conducted an economic impact assessment that estimates the automotive aftermarket will lose, as much as 44 billion in sales annually by 2010 if the access to information issue is not resolved.

It is our view that effective access to technical information is one of the key measures for improving the competitiveness of the automotive aftermarket. A sound regulatory framework for the entire automotive industry must also take into account the companies operating in the market of vehicle replacement parts, servicing and repair.

Thsi is why we, along with AIA Canada, after consulattion with our respective members and stakeholders, decided it is time to involve government support to influence this change. Governments have a major role to play in designing a robust solution that protects the environment, upholds competition and gives consumers affordable choices in the aftermarket care of their vehicles.

Sincerely,

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE#	SIGNATURE