



July 26, 2021

The Honorable Anthony J. Portantino, Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: AB 471 (Low) – Bureau of Automotive Repair: Administration: Citations: Safety Inspections – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Portantino,

On behalf of the above-listed organizations, we are writing to SUPPORT AB 471 (Low), which would address consumer protection and transparency within the automotive repair industry.

AB 471 is multi-faceted legislation that would, among other things, enhance the Bureau of Automotive Repair (“BAR”) programs for consumers, protect consumers from unsafe salvage vehicle repairs, improve the current citation and fine regulatory program.

Enhance BAR Auto Shop Locator Program: Last year, AB 2454 (Low) was introduced but stalled in order to allow BAR to address the Trusted Dealer Certification portion of that bill. The BAR has successfully developed the *Auto Shop Locator*, a new mobile-friendly search tool that allows consumers to perform location-based searches for automotive repair dealers, filter results by the type of services needed and quickly verify if a licensee is subject of a disciplinary action. The bill enhances the *Auto Shop Locator* program by helping consumers to also easily identify automotive repair dealers that have proper training and certification credentials.

Protect Consumers who Purchase Revived Salvage Vehicles: This bill will protect consumers from unsafe, revived, total loss salvage vehicles (e.g. vehicles damaged and not economically feasible to repair) by establishing a vehicle safety inspection program and allowing BAR to develop the safety inspection criteria standards. Currently to revive a total loss salvage vehicle for use on public roads only requires a brake and lamp inspection, smog check and a CHP inspection to make sure there are no stolen parts – nothing else.

Improve BAR Citation and Fine Program: The legislation will improve the current BAR citation and fine regulatory program by creating an independent citation panel to review citations; provide opportunity for automotive repair shops to attend compliance and remedial training for minor record keeping and documentation citation violations, similar to traffic school and allows BAR to certify the training providers.

For the foregoing reasons we support the legislation and respectfully urge the committee members to vote DO PASS on AB 471.

Sincerely,



Rodney K. Pierini
President & CEO
CAWA – Representing the Automotive
Parts Industry



Rick Johnson
Executive Director
California Autobody Association



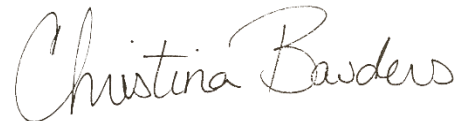
Aaron Lowe
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Nikki Ayers
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Gloria Peterson
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National Legislative Representative
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Ray Pohlman

Ray Pohlman
President
Coalition for Automotive Repair Equality

Marc Connerly

Marc Connerly
Executive Director
California Tire Dealers Association

cc: Senate Appropriations Committee
Members