



## OHIO TIRE & AUTOMOTIVE ASSOCIATION

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January 31, 2018

The Honorable Louis W. Blessing, Chairman  
House Government Accountability and Oversight  
Ohio House of Representatives  
1 Capitol Square, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Blessing,

On behalf of the Ohio Tire and Automotive Association, I write to express our support for Senate Bill 223, legislation to ban unsafe used tires. The Ohio Tire & Automotive Association (OTAA) is a statewide trade association representing the interests of Ohio tire and automotive dealers, their suppliers, and other members of Ohio's tire industry. Since 1967 OTAA has represented the business interests of its members ranging from small family owned shops to large tire dealers with locations across the entire state.

Our members' number one priority is the safety of our customers. Senate Bill 223 puts forth sensible measures that will prohibit the sale of unsafe used tires while protecting both consumers and businesses alike. Specifically, SB 223 bans the sale of tires with the following characteristics: worn-out tires (tread depth measurers 2/32nds inch or less); damage that exposes a tire's inner components such as body plies or the steel belts; inner liner damage; tires with sidewall repairs, repairs to the belt-edge area of the tire, repairs made to punctures larger than ¼ inch, repairs that do not seal a puncture from the inside of the tire through to the outside; and damaged tires treated with a tire sealant but not subsequently repaired to industry standards. In addition, the bill stipulates that the installation of an unsafe used tire is a violation of the Consumer Sales Practices Act. Under this provision, offenders can be fined up to one thousand dollars per violation. Codifying the definition of an unsafe used tire we believe is a positive step in decreasing the risk to consumers.

Our organization worked closely with the bill sponsors and interested parties to craft legislation that would protect consumers and penalize bad actors, while also avoiding regulation that would inadvertently harm reputable businesses.

In closing, our members have always been committed to selling safe, reliable tires and we believe all dealers in the State of Ohio should be as well. For these reasons we fully support the proposed legislation and applaud the bill sponsors for bringing it forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our support for this piece of legislation. Should you have any questions, please contact our office at any time.

Respectfully,

Alex T. Boehnke  
Legislative Director

CC: Members of the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee