

OHIO AUTOMOBILE DEALERS ASSOCIATION



February 9, 2025

The Honorable Nathan Manning, Chairman
Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee
Statehouse
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Manning:

On behalf of our over 800 franchised dealer members, we are writing to urge your support of the effort to combat catalytic converter theft in House Bill 210 and Senate Bill 242. While each bill would increase penalties and institute other remedies, our preference is House Bill 210 since it includes additional point of purchase provisions.


Catalytic converters are being stolen at increasingly higher rates due to their valuable metals, such as platinum, rhodium and palladium. Thieves can easily steal catalytic converters from unattended vehicles, and since catalytic converters are not readily traceable, there is a lucrative market for these stolen parts. These thefts are having a significant financial impact on businesses (including dealers) and individual vehicle owners alike. In addition, replacing a catalytic converter is costly and often difficult due to the part's demand and supply chain challenges.

For background purposes, as required by the Clean Air Act, catalytic converters reduce toxic emissions from internal combustion vehicles. Valuable precious metals in the catalytic converter remove many toxic elements from the exhaust gases as they exit the vehicle. The value of these precious metals makes catalytic converters a prime target for theft. The number of catalytic converter thefts reported nationwide in insurance company claims sharply increased from 2019 to 2023. Stolen catalytic converters can garner anywhere from up to \$350 each on the black market, while the replacement cost to vehicle owners can be as high as \$2500. Repair costs are often higher because thieves regularly damage other parts of the vehicle when removing

the converter.

In closing, we would like to extend our appreciation to the bill sponsors for recognizing the importance of this issue and bringing both measures before you for consideration.

Sincerely,



Zach Doran
President



Joe Cannon
Vice President, Government Relations