

OHIO AUTOMOBILE DEALERS ASSOCIATION



Testimony in Support of House Bill 110

Before the Ohio House Criminal Justice Committee

April 18, 2023

On behalf of our over 800 franchised dealers, we are writing to urge your support of House Bill 110, which would increase penalties and institute other remedies to combat catalytic converter theft.

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 costing millions of dollars to businesses (including dealers) and individual vehicle owners alike. In addition, replacing a catalytic converter is costly and often difficult due to the part's skyrocketing demand and supply chain shortages.

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 price of these precious metals has risen sharply, making catalytic converters a prime target for theft. According to the National Insurance Crime Bureau, between 2019 and 2022 catalytic converter thefts increased 1,215%. Stolen catalytic converters can garner anywhere from \$20 to \$350 on the black market, and the replacement cost to vehicle owners can be as high as \$2,500.

In addition to the pain being felt by your individual constituents, this crime obviously has a significant impact on our dealer members. HB 110 is a first step to addressing this issue, and we look forward to working with the Ohio Legislature and interested parties to craft a final product that will help solve this serious problem.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zach Doran".

Zach Doran
President
zdoran@oada.com

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Cannon".

Joe Cannon
VP, Government Relations
jcannon@oada.com