



February 13, 2024

Ohio House of Representatives
Transportation Committee
1 State Capitol
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: SEMA Support for HB 239

Dear Members of the House Transportation Committee,
On behalf of the Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA), I am writing to express our strong support for House Bill 239, which establishes clear and achievable regulations for replica motor vehicles, fostering innovation and economic growth within the specialty automotive industry while ensuring safety and consumer protection.

SEMA represents a diverse community of over 7,000 businesses nationwide, including 229 in Ohio, that design, manufacture, distribute, install, and sell specialty automotive parts and equipment. Replica vehicles are a significant segment within this industry, generating jobs and contributing to Ohio's rich automotive heritage. The specialty automotive equipment industry contributes \$22.77 billion to Ohio's economy, including 85,953 jobs, \$6.39 billion in total wages and benefits, and \$2.45 billion in taxes annually.

HB 239 recognizes the unique characteristics of replica vehicles and provides a framework for their safe and responsible operation on public roads. The bill's key provisions include:

- **Clear registration and titling procedures:** This eliminates confusion and ensures proper identification of replica vehicles.
- **Defined regulations for operation:** This addresses safety concerns while allowing for the enjoyment of these unique vehicles.
- **Identification requirements:** This enhances transparency and consumer protection.

These provisions align with the principles outlined in the federal Low Volume Motor Vehicle Manufacturers Act of 2015, demonstrating a commitment to fostering innovation within the specialty automotive industry while maintaining essential safety standards.

We believe that HB 239 will:

- **Stimulate economic growth:** The bill will attract new businesses and investments to Ohio by creating a clear regulatory environment, generating jobs and boosting the state's economy.
- **Enhance consumer protection:** Clear regulations and identification requirements will empower consumers to make informed choices when purchasing or operating replica vehicles.

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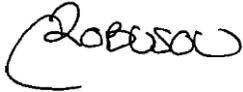
E-mail: sema@sema.org
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- **Promote safety:** The bill's provisions ensure that replica vehicles meet essential safety standards, contributing to a safer driving environment.
- **Celebrate automotive heritage:** Replica vehicles are vital to automotive history and culture. HB 239 recognizes their value and allows enthusiasts to enjoy these unique creations responsibly.

We urge you to vote in favor of HB 239 and support the continued growth and innovation of the specialty automotive industry in Ohio. SEMA stands ready to work with you and other stakeholders to ensure the successful implementation of this important legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robinson", written in a cursive style.

Christian Robinson
Senior Director, State Government Affairs & Grassroots
Specialty Equipment Market Association