

Transportation Committee, 1:00 PM Room 2C of LOB

Good afternoon,

My name is John Jarush, I'm here representing ERA Replica Automobiles of New Britain, CT. I am also Vice Chairman of the CT Council of Car Clubs, Pres. of Summer Knights Car Club and member of CT Street Rod Assoc. ERA has been building replica Cobras and GT40's since 1981 and in this economy we support House Bill 6611 to help us stay in business. I don't need to go into detail about the economy and especially the automotive industry as a whole, but without the help of this bill, we may face more layoffs (we just had our 2nd) or maybe even closure. As you are aware with your help we were able to pass the bill to exempt composite vehicles from emission testing, but when EPA found out they informed DMV that even though the car doesn't need to be tested for emissions, the car must have all emission equipment in place for that year engine and to outfit a replica car with a catalytic converter, O2 sensors, fuel injection and computers would ruin the look of the vehicle and defeat the purpose of building such a vehicle. Being based on British sports cars, there isn't a lot of room for all of the wiring, computer and related pieces that would be needed. Without this bill, the state could lose revenue in inspection fees, registration fees, and sales tax, which could be more than \$7500 for some vehicles. As old engines get harder to find, it would create a situation where people would have to lie about the year of the engine by obtaining false documents of the engine year or by registering the vehicle in another state. In speaking with DMV, the only feasible solution to this would be to adopt a SEMA type bill, registering the vehicle as the year it most closely resembles. 18 states have already adopted this type of legislation into law with 5 more introduced this year. Connecticut being a non-title state for 1981 and older vehicles it should not have an impact on the registration process. In closing, we are all just trying to have a good time in a hobby we love.