



March 13, 2009

Sen. Donald J. DeFronzo, Co-Chair
Rep. Antonio Guerrero, Co-Chair
Transportation Committee
Room 2300, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: CT HB 6652- An Act Concerning the Use of Video Equipment in Motor Vehicles
Position: Support

Dear Chairman DeFronzo and Chairman Guerrero:

The Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers is a trade association of 11 car and light-truck manufacturers. Our members include BMW Group, Chrysler LLC, Ford Motor Company, General Motors Corporation, Jaguar Land Rover, Mazda, Mercedes-Benz USA, Mitsubishi, Porsche, Toyota Motor North America and Volkswagen of America.

I am writing on behalf of the Alliance in support of HB 6652, An Act Concerning the Use of Video Equipment in Motor Vehicles. This legislation allows automakers to provide vehicle information to drivers by utilizing electronic display technologies and clarifies additional emerging applications will be allowed to be integrated in the cars of tomorrow.

Decades of research and development are yielding cutting-edge technologies for safer, more sophisticated automobiles. Some of these technologies involve the use of electronic display devices that are installed forward the driver's seat in the vehicle so as to enable the driver and/or right-front passenger to view the display. Alliance members recognize the safety concerns associated with driver distraction and have therefore integrated electronic display designs that specifically minimize driver distraction by limiting display form and content that may be viewed by a driver while the vehicle is in motion.

Providing the right information at the correct time to automobile drivers is critical in the effort to promote safer roadways throughout the state of Connecticut. As technology advances, more and more of this information is becoming available every day. This information comes in many forms such as:

- Awareness of the immediate surrounding through the use of back-up cameras, side and rear cameras and sensors, enhanced night vision technology and rear seat occupant monitors.
- Awareness of travel information such as real time route timing, alternative route planning, accident information and /or construction delays.
- Awareness of weather information and changing weather conditions.
- Awareness of vehicle operating systems and conditions

Many automakers are currently providing this critical information to drivers via electronic display devices in vehicles and continue to explore emerging technologies to safely provide drivers valuable

BMW Group • Chrysler LLC • Ford Motor Company • General Motors • Jaguar Land Rover
Mazda • Mercedes-Benz • Mitsubishi Motors • Porsche • Toyota • Volkswagen

information related to the vehicle. By allowing automobile manufacturers the design flexibility to implement these types of technologies, safety concerns associated with driver distraction can be addressed in an integrated fashion, while meeting increasing consumer demand for connected technologies. Otherwise drivers will likely use aftermarket and handheld devices that are not designed for the driving environment at all. Statutory limitations on OEM integrated technologies will lead to these non-integrated hand-held devices filling the gap between what consumers demand and what automakers are permitted to provide.

Automakers recognize the importance of providing information in a safe and controlled manner in order to avoid distracting drivers from their most important task of operating the vehicle. HB 6652 recognizes consumer demand for new and emerging technologies while preserving important safety benefits and limiting driver distraction. We would like to thank the Committee as well as the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles for their efforts in drafting this legislation. HB 6652 will allow the auto industry to continue to transform and develop and deploy innovative and safe technologies in the cars of tomorrow. The Alliance respectfully requests the Transportation Committee's favorable report of this legislation.

Thank you for the consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Cole
Director, State Government Affairs
Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers