



March 12, 2009

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Senator Donald J. DeFronzo, Co-Chair
Representative Antonio Guerrero, Co-Chair
Joint Transportation Committee
Connecticut General Assembly
Room 2300, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: HB 6652--Video Equipment in Motor Vehicles: SUPPORT

Dear Senator DeFronzo and Representative Guerrero:

The Association of International Automobile Manufacturers, Inc. (AIAM)^[1] provides the following comments in support of HB 6652, a bill regarding video display units in motor vehicles. AIAM is unable to attend the Joint Transportation Committee hearing on HB 6652 on March 13 and requests that this statement be made a part of the official record maintained by the Committee on this bill.

AIAM fully supports the policy goals and provisions in HB 6652, namely to keep drivers from being distracted by viewing images unrelated to the driving task while allowing them to use important technology, including monitors, to assist while the vehicle is in motion and to provide vehicle information, vehicle control and navigation displays.

We also believe that HB 6652 will repeal the unintended consequences in current state law that could inadvertently place design and other restrictions on future vehicle technology and systems intended to aid the driver in the task of driving.

^[1] AIAM is a trade association representing 13 international motor vehicle manufacturers who account for 40 percent of all passenger cars and light trucks sold annually in the United States. AIAM also represents original equipment suppliers and other automotive-related trade associations. Our member companies' facilities produced 3.5 million vehicles in 2007 – more than 33% of total U.S. production - and purchased nearly \$46 billion in parts and materials from U.S. suppliers in 2007. More than half of all vehicles sold by AIAM members in the United States are made in the United States. AIAM companies have invested over \$39.3 billion in 69 U.S. vehicle plants, component manufacturing facilities and R&D centers which employ 92,700 Americans with a payroll of \$6.3 billion.

Accordingly, AIAM recommends that the Joint Transportation Committee approve HB 6652.

We appreciate the consideration of AIAM's views on HB 6652 by the Committee. Should you have any questions about AIAM's position on this legislation or other matters of interest to the industry, please call Petra Smeltzer, AIAM's Manager of State Relations, at (703) 247-2112.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Stanton
President and CEO

cc: Joint Transportation Committee Members

Mr. James Fleming, President
Ms. Ann Kish, Executive Assistant
Connecticut Automotive Retailers Association

