



**Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers
Written Statement on Proposed SB 318**

The Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers is a trade association that represents twelve automobile manufacturers. The Alliance's members include: BMW, Chrysler Group LLC, Ford Motor Company, General Motors Company, Jaguar-Land Rover, Mazda, Mitsubishi Motors, Porsche, Toyota, Volkswagen Group of America, and Volvo Cars North America.

The Alliance strongly opposes Proposed SB 318, and respectfully asks the committee not to move the bill forward. The bill would alter a core concept of Connecticut's Lemon Law, and change it to something that is unprecedented.

The purpose of Lemon Laws (including Connecticut's) is to provide a remedy to an owner of a new motor vehicle that has a defect which "substantially impairs [its] use, safety, or value" and that has not been repaired after "a reasonable number of attempts." Connecticut's law helps the consumer by creating a presumption that a "reasonable" number of attempts have been undertaken if either 1) the same problem has been the subject of four repair attempts within the first two years of ownership or 24,000 miles; or 2) the vehicle has been out of service for more than 30 days. There is an even stronger presumption for defects that are likely to cause death or serious injury: two attempts to repair the defect in the first year of ownership.

The themes of those presumptions are repairing vehicles, and providing the consumer a remedy if the repairs are insufficient. SB 318 seeks to shift Connecticut's Lemon Law away from a focus on fixing vehicles to eliminating the need for a repair attempt to even be made before the manufacturer must buyback or replace the vehicle. SB 318 does that by dismissing the need to show that a reasonable number of attempts to repair have been made. Instead, it appears that all that is necessary to trigger remedies under SB 318 is for a mechanic to certify that there is a defect that impairs the "use, safety, or value of the motor vehicle." The Alliance notes that SB 318 does not explain who can qualify as a mechanic or what certification would entail. It is also unclear why such a mechanic would be more likely to accurately diagnose a problem than a new motor vehicle dealer whose employees have training, expertise, and familiarity with the vehicles under warranty. The Alliance also notes that defects that substantially impair "use, safety or value" encompass all of the types of defects to which Connecticut's Lemon Law now applies.

SB 318 could have very harmful results by dramatically increasing the number of "lemons" in Connecticut. Ironically, Lemon Laws are meant to give consumers a remedy against manufacturers that do not live up to their warranty obligations, yet under SB 318, the manufacturers may not even get the chance to do that. SB 318 is a radical departure from the traditional Lemon Law concept.

The Alliance opposes SB 318 and respectfully asks this committee not to advance this bill.

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