

Dear Transportation Committee,

I would like to make a short comment regarding the proposal to allow Tesla to sell directly to Connecticut consumers.

All across our state, efforts are being made to reinvent who Connecticut is while maintaining our great heritage and traditions. Hopefully these efforts will result in a greater number of jobs while maintaining tourism.

The bill before your committee is a great example of these efforts. Allowing Tesla to sell directly to consumers shows that Connecticut welcomes new ideas and technology. At the same time, the bill specifically does not require the dismantling of the traditional dealer franchise network that has, and will continue to, contribute to our state.

The dealers association claims that by allowing direct sales, the consumer will suffer because the dealer network adds value to the consumer. If this is the case, and in some instances it might be, then why not let the consumer make that choice. If the consumer feels that the value proposition of direct sales is less than that of buying a different car through a dealer, then they won't buy Tesla cars and the company will move on from sales into Connecticut.

However, if the bill does not pass, and dealers remain the sole source of automobiles, then the choice is not made by the consumer; the basis of a true free market economy.

Connecticut is known as the Constitution State because we were a leader in establishing the new order of the United States. Passing this bill shows that we still deserve that nickname.

Regards,  
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