



Automotive Service Association®

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March 9, 2016

The Honorable John W. Fonfara
Co-Chair
The Honorable Jeffrey J. Berger
Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding
Room 3700
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Senate Bill 335 – Support

Dear Senator Morse:

The Automotive Service Association (ASA) is the largest not-for-profit trade association of its kind dedicated to and governed by independent automotive service and repair professionals. ASA serves an international membership base that includes numerous affiliate, state and chapter groups from both the collision and mechanical repair segments of the automotive service industry.

We are writing today in support of Senate Bill 335. This legislation is good for consumers, good for shops and consistent with trends in other jurisdictions. Since 1999, due to a Department of Revenue Services ruling, double taxation has been imposed on auto body repair facilities in the State of Connecticut. This onerous tax is carried out via taxes on paint and materials at the point of sale to shops followed by shops then taxing customers on the same paint and materials.

Paint and materials should not be taxed until it is resold for a specific vehicle. Taxation of paint and materials is unfairly applied when shops purchase it and again when they sell it. Today's auto body repair business practices as to the purchase of paint and materials works to the advantage of vehicle owners or consumers and the environment, i.e. purchasing and mixing what is needed. The State of Connecticut should not punish an industry that has improved its business practices with a double tax.

ASA urges the Committee to pass Senate Bill 335. Senate Bill 335 corrects the double taxation burden on auto body shops.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 335. Please contact me directly, at 202-543-1440, if ASA can provide more information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert L. Redding, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert L. Redding, Jr.
ASA Washington, D.C. Representative