

**Testimony of
Paul Garavel
in Opposition to
SB 127: An Act Concerning the Sale of Electric Vehicles in the State
Transportation Committee
February 19, 2021**

Representative Lemar, Senator Cassano, Representative Simms, Senator Somers, Representative Carney, and Members of the Transportation Committee, my name is Paul Garavel. I am here today to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 127: An Act Concerning the Sale of Electric Vehicles in the State.

I am President of Garavel Chrysler Jeep Dodge RAM in Norwalk, Connecticut. I serve as a Member of the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Automotive Retailers Association, and I have also served as a member of the General Assembly.

Connecticut's franchise laws protect consumers. Senate Bill 127 will effectively dismantle Connecticut's franchise system resulting in significant harm to car buyers in our state. Connecticut new car dealers serve as advocates for their costumers by enforcing lemon laws, servicing recalls, and ensuring fair access to lending options. We provide local access to parts and repair.

Additionally, Connecticut's 270 new car dealerships employ over 14,000 people in our state with good paying jobs. Senate Bill 127 will result in a reduction of our workforce.

If the intended purpose of Senate Bill 127 is to expand the use of electric vehicles in Connecticut, this is the wrong way to achieve that goal. New car dealers in Connecticut are committed to selling electric vehicles. There are over 40 electric vehicles on the market today. Further, several car manufacturers have committed to going 100% electric in the next ten to twenty years. New car dealers have the means to provide local, reliable, and affordable access to electric vehicles.

I respectfully request that you reject Senate Bill 127 and protect consumers and local jobs.

Thank you.