

**Testimony of
Hayden Reynolds & Kathryn Reynolds Wayland
in Opposition to
SB 127: AAC 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, our names are Hayden Reynolds and Kathryn Reynolds Wayland. We proudly operate Reynolds Subaru in Lyme, Connecticut. Our family-run dealership has been serving our community for over 150 years dating back to 1859. We employ a workforce of 50 people. We are here today to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 127: An Act Concerning the Sale of Electric Vehicles in the State.

Connecticut's franchise laws provide important protections to Connecticut consumers. Franchise laws help keep customer costs down by providing competition between and among locally owned auto dealerships. These laws ensure that new car buyers have access to fair and encompassing warranties, guidelines for safety recalls, and enforcement of the lemon law and fair lending laws. New car dealers, like ourselves, serve as advocates for consumers.

Senate Bill 127 undermines these protections by providing a corporate loophole in Connecticut law at the expense of not only the consumer, but also the 270 locally owned new car dealers in Connecticut and their 14,000 employees. Small locally owned dealerships rely on the franchise laws to provide a level playing field with large corporations.

We take pride in the services we offer to our local community. Throughout the pandemic, we have remained open as an essential business. Like the rest of the new car dealerships in Connecticut, we have been there to support frontline workers and their families. We provide reliable customer service with a personal touch that can only be found when you buy local.

We ask that you support small business and oppose Senate Bill 127.

Thank you.