



Jeff Aiosa
Legislative Co-Chair
Connecticut Automotive Retailers Association
In Opposition
Senate Bill 214: An Act Concerning the Sale of Electric Vehicles
Transportation Committee
March 14, 2022

Representative Lemar, Senator Haskell, Representative Simms, Senator Somers, Representative Carney, and Members of the Transportation Committee, my name is Jeff Aiosa. I serve as the Legislative Co-Chair of the Connecticut Automotive Retailers Association (CARA) which proudly represents 270 new car dealers and their 14,000 employees. I am President of Carriage House Mercedes Benz of New London, and I also serve as a director of the National Automobile Dealers Association. I am here today to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 214: An Act Concerning the Sale of Electric Vehicles in the State.

Connecticut's over 270 new car dealerships provide consumers with local and dependable service. Throughout the pandemic, our dealerships remained open as part of the essential workforce delivering access to our services to Connecticut's frontline workers. We provided car repair and sales services to the public. Additionally, we provided support for first responders, ambulances, and fleets of grocery delivery trucks. Our dealerships are flexible, nimble, and are always looking to meet the demands to our customers as demonstrated over the course of this difficult year.

To that end, Connecticut new car dealers have quickly adapted to the promotion of a greener future. CT new car dealers have installed over 600 electric vehicle charging stations, many of which are available to the public. Further, many dealerships utilize solar panels. At last count, CT dealers have installed over 25,000 panels at their retail locations. We make purchasing, servicing, and charging electric vehicles easily accessible to our consumers. CARA has also partnered with Connecticut's own CHEAPR program which provides consumers with incentives to purchase electric vehicles.

Most importantly, our dealerships protect the consumer while providing personal and local service. Connecticut's Franchise Act, which governs the sale of new vehicles by our dealerships, protects Connecticut consumers by guaranteeing state and federal safety laws are followed as well as ensuring that fair lending laws are enforced.

Senate Bill 214 harms Connecticut consumers. Consumers will no longer have our dealerships to advocate for them, and they will lose access to local and reliable repair services. Senate Bill 214 jeopardizes the jobs of over 14,000 Connecticut employees. Finally, Senate Bill 214 is unnecessary because Connecticut consumers have access to electric vehicles, and that access continues to grow.

I ask that you reject Senate Bill 214 to protect Connecticut consumers while protecting the jobs of over 14,000 employees right here in our state.

Thank you.