

March 6, 2013

Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Ref: SB212

Good afternoon Senator Dingfelder and committee members,

I am Todd Weedman, owner of Todd's Import Automotive:
17607 Pilkington Rd, Lake Oswego OR 97035

Residing at:
13790 SE 119th Dr, Clackamas OR 97015

Having been in the automotive industry for 37 years, I have seen significant changes in automotive technology and DEQ's Vehicle Inspection Program has been a resource and advocate for the automotive repair industry. DEQ's benefit to the environment is undeniable and their relationship with repair facilities has contributed to those facilities education and ability to do their part.

In fact our customers have also been well educated and usually come to us promptly after the malfunction indicator lamp (MIL) comes on, thus having the issue repaired prior to DEQ emission testing. Preemptive repair may cause a false belief that vehicles rarely fail. This is indeed a false assumption as most repairs are performed for purposes of reliability and fuel economy rather than out of the necessity of passing emission testing.

However this could change if newer vehicles are not subject to testing, owners will not feel compelled to respect the malfunction light. Even the newest engines burn fuel much the same way they have for 100 years and require emission controls that will ultimately fail. System malfunction results in increased emissions and compromises reliability.

Emission repair was a key cause for the formation of the National Automotive Service Task Force (NASTF). Established in 2000, the Task Force acts as an information conduit between vehicle manufacturers and independent service providers. Deemphasizing the importance of emissions could weaken manufacturer's willingness to provide repair facilities the information necessary to effectively repair vehicles; thus narrowing consumer choices.

Comment:

Washington currently grants a waiver after \$150.00 is paid towards repair, however, most repairs significantly exceed this amount and I feel this would tempt owners to simply pay to pass; negating the value of the test program.

Thank You