
NORTHWEST AUTO TRADES ASSOCIATION TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 803

Senate Energy and Environment Committee / March 16, 2021

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Chair Beyer and Members of the Committee:

The Northwest Automobile Trades Association (NATA) represents more than 450 business members across Oregon. NATA members include collision and mechanical repairs shops, dismantlers, and auto parts manufacturers and distributors.

This testimony is submitted on behalf of our association dismantler members. Oregon Dismantlers are certified by DMV's Business Regulation Office.

NATA appreciates the intent of SB803 and supports any efforts to rid the auto repair and dismantling industry of thieves, crooks, grafters, pilferers, carjackers, purloiners, looters, pillagers, rustlers, bandits, and pirates.

With that in mind, we also work to ensure new statutes and regulations do not make the cure worse than the disease. We hope to better understand the implications of the bill on reputable and law-abiding DMV certified dismantlers before the bill moves forward. To wit:

The bill deals with "metal property" which is defined as "commercial metal property, nonferrous metal property or private metal property".

"Private metal property" is then defined as a "catalytic converter that has been removed from a vehicle and is offered for sale as an independent item, whether individually or as part of a bundle, bale or in other bulk form".

As I currently understand it, Section 2 (4)(b)(D) ONLY applies to catalytic converters which have been removed from a vehicle. So, a certified dismantler purchasing a vehicle which includes a catalytic converter is NOT impacted by SB803.

However, if a certified dismantler were to purchase an orphaned catalytic converter, they would be subject to all of the provision of SB803.

Dismantlers often purchase vehicles with no license plates. DMV does not request, and dismantlers generally do not retain, license plate information in their inventories.

NATA supports the goal of reducing the growing crime of catalytic converter theft. However, we are hoping for some time with the bill's sponsors to validate our assumptions. I have already reached out to Mr. Aaron Knott at the Multnomah County District Attorney's office and hope we are able to meet soon.

I'm happy to answer any questions.