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Friday, October 14, 2016

Submission to the Standing Committee on Families and Communities

Input on Bill 203

Dear Committee Members:

As a Franchise Automotive Dealer and active corporate member in good standing in our community, I am dismayed by Bill 203.

While I appreciate MLA Carson's intention in this regard, I want to point out that robust regulations already exist relative to repair pricing protection – regulations that I, and my service staff, support 100%.

I implore the committee to refer to the applicable sections of Alberta's Fair Trading Act (FTA) and the Automotive Business Regulations (Sec. 12). These existing regulations already address Mr. Carson's concerns and negate the reason for more legislation and the burden that this imposes on all parties.

The proof that our current legislation is effective is born out by the lack of evidence that a problem even exists. Consumer complaints are few, on a relative basis, and complaints that do arise are handled effectively with the regulatory tools that are already in place.

As well, franchise automotive dealers are already held to the highest standards of retail excellence. Having to deal with yet another set of redundant rules, and the administrative burden that this will inevitably entail, is wholly unnecessary. Businesses are already overburdened with administration as is it – particularly franchise businesses.

In conclusion, I hereby ask that the committee recommend that this bill not proceed. I hope my letter, and the input received by others, inspires a productive debate on this issue.

Yours Truly,

Whitecap Chevrolet Buick GMC

Colin Parada
Managing Partner