

THISTLE AUTOMOTIVE LTD
RICHARD HARMAN
11222 87 Ave Fort Saskatchewan T8L 2S4
service@thistleauto.ca

October 28, 2016

Jessica Littlewood
Constituency Office
9925B 104 Street
Fort Saskatchewan, AB
Canada T8L 2E7

Dear Committee Member:

I own and operate Thistle Automotive Ltd, an automotive repair facility, in Fort Saskatchewan I and have been in business for 26 years at the same location. I have built up a trusted business with my clients in Fort Saskatchewan and the surrounding area.

It is with great concern that I write to you today regarding Bill 203, a Private Members Bill, which is currently under review with the Standing Committee on Families and Communities. As a reputable repairer, I am always in favour of creating better industry standards that protect both the consumer as well as the automotive sector. However, I feel strongly that Bill 203, as currently written, would require significant amendments to achieve this. That is why I ask you to carefully consider the Canadian Independent Automotive Association's (CIAA) position regarding Bill 203 as I support their recommendations.

As you are aware, Alberta is the only province in Canada that utilizes a regulatory body such as AMVIC to regulate and mediate repair services under the Fair Trading Act. To operate an automotive business in Alberta you must hold a valid AMVIC license and abide by all regulations in order to not only maintain your license, but also to avoid facing penalties and even possible prosecution. We are extremely fortunate to have AMVIC, but I feel that Bill 203 will not only create conflict within the existing legislation but also place expectations clearly outside of the jurisdiction of AMVIC.

Please take some time to follow this link to the CIAA website, www.ciaassociation.org. This will outline more information and the suggested amendments from the Canadian Independent Automotive Association. If you feel that the suggested amendments as outlined by the CIAA are unachievable within the context of a Private Members Bill, then I respectfully request that your vote reflect the dissolution of Bill 203.

I sincerely believe upon further investigation that you will understand our concerns and reconsider supporting Bill 203 as it currently exists. There is definitely an opportunity here to work with the automotive industry to create stronger and effective consumer protection.

Thank you for your time. I invite you to please visit our facility at 11222 87 Avenue in Fort Saskatchewan. It would be a pleasure to meet and discuss my concerns in greater detail. I can be reached at 780-998-0588.

Sincerely,
Richard Harman Owner/Operator
Thistle Automotive Ltd