



February 23, 2024

Representative Jesse Sumner, Chair
House Labor and Commerce Committee
State Capitol, Room 421
Juneau, AK 99801

KENDALL AUTO ALASKA
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RE: HB 233 – Relating to rates and times allowances for required motor vehicle work.

Dear Chair Sumner and Members of the Committee:

My name is Nick Samet, I have been the General Manager of Kendall Ford Wasilla for 5 years. I am a second generation Alaskan and am working on a wonderful third generation. I am proud to employ around 90 employees out in our Valley.

We, as most new car franchises struggle hiring and training technicians, it is very expensive for us, it takes at least 2 years to train one to be efficient, it takes 10 years on the job with many of trips to the lower 48 and dozens of classes that need attended to become the highest level of Senior Master Technician to have the correct certifications to perform warranty and recall work that is mandated by the manufacturer. These travel expenses are all paid for by the dealership and sometimes the classes themselves. We must of course also pay wages to the tech when they are training. This is very expensive and required by Ford.

Technicians are required to buy their own special tools or the dealer, and not supplied by Ford.

We need to make this career more attractive to more people, there is a huge need across the country for techs, probably more so in Alaska. Wages that dealers can pay are a big factor in the competitiveness of the labor market across the nation. The margins a dealer has directly affect this. If we were allowed the same time allowances as identified in other sources of labor guides, instead of Ford dictation in this state, what we could pay our techs would increase. This would allow us to be more competitive with other states that have this law.

Ultimately this would benefit the customer, as we could be properly staffed to quickly get their car in and out of the shop instead of long waiting times due to lack of employees to help facilitate the repair.

Thank you for your time and I hope to have your support for all the employees and businesses that will benefit from this.

Nick Samet

General Manager

Kendall Ford of Wasilla

CC: Frank Tomaszewski, Sponsor

KENDALL

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PORSCHE RAM SUBARU TOYOTA VOLKSWAGEN