

LITHIA CHRYSLER DODGE JEEP RAM OF WASILLA



February 3, 2024

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

RE: HB 233

Dear Chairman Sumner and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of HB 233. This relates to the rates and time allowances for required motor vehicle warranty repair work. The passing of this bill is not only a benefit for the numerous dealerships that operate in the great state of Alaska but also to our repair technicians and their families, with an increase in their pay this will increase the dollars they spend here in Alaska.

Manufacturers being required to pay the same labor hours as a customer pay repair increases the dealership income as well, this helps us pay for required manufacturer training, special tools and of course one of the largest benefits is the ability to retain technicians who are becoming more and more scarce it seems in today's world. HB 233 would allow us to compete with independent shops where technicians after receiving thousands of dollars' worth of training from a new car dealership are often recruited by these independent shops who are collecting a higher payment from customer pay work vs the pay that is allotted by the manufacturer thus paying the technician more money.

My name is James King, and I am the General Manager of Lithia Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram of Wasilla. I have 28 years in the retail auto industry and personally believe the view from my dealership is the absolute best in the country, I invite you to stop by next time you are in the area and see if you disagree! My dealership employees between 40-50 Alaskans who love this state and would love to see the state encourage the manufacturers to step up and pay the fair hours and rates that any customer off the street would pay.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 233, I urge you to support the passing of this bill that supports and protects Alaskans and Alaskan businesses.

Sincerely


James King

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