



Consumer Electronics Association

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Dear Representative:

On behalf of the Consumer Electronics Association, I urge you to support H.R. 2694, the Motor Vehicle Owners Right to Repair Act of 2007 as introduced by Representative Edolphus Towns on June 13, 2007.

The Consumer Electronics Association (CEA) has more than 2,100 members, many whom manufacture or install aftermarket mobile electronics products, such as car audio systems, in-dash GPS navigation systems, passenger-view television screens and DVD players, security alarms, satellite radio and Bluetooth systems.

Today's automobiles rely on computer systems for nearly all aspects of a vehicles' operation, including basic safety functions like the seat belt chime and turn signals. In order to install aftermarket products, independent installers need the "access codes" for the automobile. Unfortunately, automobile manufacturers routinely deny the access codes to small and independent installers, effectively using the codes to block competitors. The result is that independent installers are "locked out" of the vehicle and the marketplace.

We believe Americans have the right to choose which new technologies are used in their vehicle, as well as to choose who installs these products. Aftermarket installers and mobile electronics manufacturers deserve the opportunity to compete with new car dealers, who now use these access codes to lock out their competitors. Greater consumer choice and competition will drive more innovative products and lower prices, benefiting all Americans.

H.R. 2694 is a measured and sensible response to the dire situation now faced by independent installers. It would ensure that small and independent installers have the bare minimum information needed to install products and compete in the marketplace. At the same time, H.R. 2964 offers all necessary protections for automobile companies' trade secrets and patents.

CEA urges you to support the Motor Vehicle Owners Right to Repair Act of 2007 as a way to promote greater consumer choice, lower prices and a fair chance to compete for mobile electronics installers and manufacturers.

Sincerely,

Gary Shapiro
President and CEO