



Consumer Electronics Association

2500 Wilson Blvd. Arlington, VA 22201-3834 USA (703) 907-7600 main (703) 907-7601 fax www.CE.org

May 16, 2006

Dear Representative:

I am writing to urge your support for H.R. 2048, the Motor Vehicle Owners Right to Repair Act introduced by Representative Joe Barton last year.

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

In recent years, automobiles have become increasingly advanced, relying heavily on computers and electronics for nearly all aspects of a vehicles' operation. These developments have led automobile manufacturers to implement access codes, which have the effect of locking aftermarket installers and products out of new vehicles.

CEA believes Americans should have the right to choose which new technologies are used in their vehicle, as well as the right to choose who installs these products.

We are not asking manufacturers to divulge any proprietary information. Rather, we ask them only for the bare minimum information needed for aftermarket manufacturers and independent repair shops to compete in the marketplace. H.R. 2048 offers the necessary protections for automobile companies' trade secrets and patents.

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.

We urge you to join the 102 members of Congress currently supporting the Motor Vehicle Owners Right to Repair Act 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