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The Honorable Steve Hobbs  
Chairman, Senate Transportation Committee  
305 John A. Cherberg Building  
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Chairman Hobbs and Members of the Committee:

The Auto Care Association is a national trade association comprised of more than 3000-member companies and affiliates that manufacturer, distribute and sell motor vehicle parts, accessories, services, tools, equipment, materials, and supplies. In short, we represent the entire supply chain of the auto industry.

On behalf of the aftermarket industry, we are writing to express our concern and opposition to the proposed auto parts tax included in the transportation revenue package. This bill would increase repair costs for consumers during a global pandemic when working families are looking to save money. Many consumers are keeping their vehicles longer and repair costs for older vehicles are more expensive. Additionally, this auto parts tax could also increase the total out of pocket costs for insurance funded repairs as parts would become more expensive.

While we recognize the need for sustainable business practices to protect the environment, our industry promotes the use of recycled parts that can be remanufactured and reused after a rigorous process to ensure the safety and soundness of these parts. More importantly, if the costs of parts are increased, many consumers will skip getting repairs and ultimately drive unsafe vehicles. There are also increased emissions if cars are not maintained properly. Thus, increasing costs will provide a disincentive to properly maintain critical emissions control systems.

We respectfully ask you to reconsider this proposal to tax auto parts as it would be more harmful to the economic recovery of the state and working-class citizens. Please let me know how we can be helpful as the committee debates these measures.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask you to amend the proposal and remove the auto parts tax from consideration.

Sincerely,

Tom Tucker  
Senior Director, State Government Affairs