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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NJGCA Renews Call for Mandatory Safety Inspections for All Vehicles
*Repair shops consistently see vehicles that are unsafe and dangerous to drive
The stakes are simply too high to continue allowing motorists to drive unsafe vehicles*

Sal Risalvato, Executive Director of the New Jersey Gasoline, Convenience, Automotive Association (NJGCA), released the following statement today after hearing a series of frightening stories from NJGCA members regarding the condition of vehicles coming into their repair shops:

"It has now been four and a half years since the State eliminated safety inspections, and my members, independent repair shop owners, continue to be alarmed by the condition of the vehicles they see coming into their shops. Imagine their frustration when they see vehicles coming into their service bays that they KNOW should not be on the road, but cannot be denied a valid inspection sticker. I grow equally concerned as my members continue to relay these stories to me, knowing that State officials just will not entertain the possibility of bringing back safety inspections. This morning though, was the straw that broke the camel's back for me. I heard a story that I could not ignore, and I cannot remain silent today."

"I received a phone call from a longtime NJGCA member who has been performing motor vehicle inspections for more than 25 years," Risalvato explained. "He called me to express his personal frustration with a situation that had just unfolded in front of him. The member was Tony Crisalli, who operates Holmdel Village Exxon in Monmouth County, and he knew that this was the perfect opportunity to bring awareness to the many dangerous situations that exist due to the elimination of safety inspections."

Crisalli said, "This morning, I had a customer drive into my shop because of problems with a dead battery. The customer happened to mention that he had a Motor Vehicle inspection performed just yesterday. When I drove the car into my service bays to check the battery, I was alarmed to find that the vehicle had virtually no brakes at all."

"With the knowledge that the vehicle had passed State inspection just yesterday, I brought my findings to the customer's attention, and offered to determine what was keeping the car from braking properly," Crisalli continued. "I investigated the problem, found a leaking brake line and informed the customer. Although the customer agreed that the vehicle was not safe to drive, he declined to have the car repaired. I noted on the service order that the vehicle was unsafe and should not be driven and then released the vehicle to the customer, without any charge. There was simply nothing more that I could do... My hands were tied."

"Here's the scariest part," Crisalli added. "The customer commutes 65 miles, each way, to his job in Monmouth County, and had a child's car seat strapped in the back seat of the car. Obviously, a young child is regularly transported in this unsafe vehicle. I do not want to see a story about a tragic accident in the news this week, because motorists are not compelled to keep their vehicles in safe working order."

"After hearing Crisalli's story, I immediately knew that I had to voice my concern," Risalvato concluded. "My organization fought long and hard against the decision to eliminate safety inspections, and we will continue to advocate for the return of this life-saving program, in any form. It is simply tragic to think how many preventable accidents must take place before something is done to keep New Jersey motorists, and their vehicles, safe."

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