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October 15, 2012

The Honorable Jane Doe
123 Main Street
Everytown, NJ 07000

Re: Assembly Bill 354

Dear Assemblywoman Doe:

On October 18th the General Assembly will be considering Assembly Bill 354, and I urge you to support it.

The New Jersey Gasoline, C-Store, and Automotive Association represents hundreds of automobile repair businesses throughout the state. Since motor vehicle safety inspections were eliminated two years ago, my members have consistently reported seeing a dramatic increase in the number of motorists coming in for repairs or oil changes with nonworking lamps or other lighting devices. In the past, these consumers would have also asked the mechanic to make the necessary fixes so that they could pass their next safety inspection. However, now that there is no fear of failing a safety inspection, motorists are content to ignore the problem and save their money.

This attitude, while somewhat understandable given current economic problems, endangers everyone on the road today. For example, I know from personal experience that there are times when being able to see a single brake light from a car ahead of me has allowed me to come to a stop in time on the highway. We all use the roads, and this bill will promote driver safety, something that is a concern to my organization. Here at NJGCA our motto is that we are “serving the small businesses that serve the motorist.”

Since the elimination of mandatory safety inspections, NJGCA has promoted to our members that they should continue to check their customers’ vehicles for any safety violations. We have

even had printed and mailed out brochures and posters for them to display in their shops promoting to the public the importance of maintain a safe automobile. A copy of the brochure is included with this letter.

Though it is still our position that the best thing for road safety is to reinstate mandatory safety inspections; in the absence of that I believe that A-354 is a good bill that will make our roads safer and our small businesses more prosperous. I thank Assemblymen Gusciora, Barnes, and Chiusano for working together in a bipartisan fashion to make this proposal law; and I thank the members of the Assembly Transportation, Public Works, & Independent Authorities Committee for unanimously voting in favor of moving it forward.

I respectfully request that you vote in favor of A-354.

Sincerely,



Sal Risalvato

Executive Director