



Automotive Service Councils of California
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Automotive Service Councils of California

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ASCCA President Defends the Rights of Automotive Repair Shops and Their Customers at Joint Legislative Hearing

SACRAMENTO – ASCCA President testifies at Joint Legislative Committee that Consumers should have the right to choose where they have their car repaired

The Automotive Service Council of California (ASCCA) along with other key stakeholders including automobile manufacturers, wireless technology companies, consumer/privacy groups and aftermarket industry associations were invited to participate on panels before a Joint Informational Hearing by the California State Senate Committee on Transportation and Housing and the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, titled *Telematics 101: How Much Cars know About You*.

The first panel, primarily comprised of vehicle manufacturers, discussed the types of data generated and collected by an automobile and how that data is currently used. The second panel focused on privacy issues, access and use of vehicle data. ASCCA president Dennis Montalbano testified that "*what I am here to talk about is the consumer and making sure that they have choice about where their car is repaired,*" Montalbano told the committee that, "*80% percent of the vehicles are repaired by the independent repair shop and without access to vehicle data through telematics broadcasting consumers risk losing choices that are currently available to them.*" Montalbano thanked the committee for inviting ASCCA to participate in the telematics discussions and involvement with future hearings and legislative solutions.

Montalbano was joined by other automotive aftermarket groups, including Bud Rice, president of the California Automotive Business Coalition (CalABC) Robert Ayers of the Independent Automotive Professionals Association (IAPA), and Aaron Lowe of the Auto Care Association (ACA).

The Joint Legislative Committee plan on conducting additional telematics hearings in the near future. ASCCA will continue to monitor, participate and represent the independent repair industry accordingly.

ASCCA has released the following Telematics Guiding Principles. Video of the hearing can be found at <http://stran.senate.ca.gov/informationalhearings> and the automotive aftermarket industry professional's testimony begins at 1:37:50.

ASCCA Telematics Guiding Principles

1. Disclosure. The vehicle manufacturer shall disclose to the consumer the type of data/information generated/collected by their vehicle. Consumers have a right to know what information is generated/collected by their vehicle.
2. Information Belongs to Consumer. The information/data generated/collected by a vehicle belongs to the consumer, NOT the vehicle manufacturer or the telecommunications companies that contract with them.

3. Consumer Choice. The consumer has the right to share their vehicle data/information (i.e. telematically) with an automotive service professional or third party of his or her choice. The vehicle manufacturer shall not be able to restrict access by the consumer.

Founded in 1940, the Automotive Service Councils of California is the largest independent automotive repair organization in California. Its members represent all areas of the automotive repair industry, including mechanical, auto body, suppliers and educators.

"To elevate and Unite Automotive Professionals, and give them voice. "