



May 16, 2022

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Chairman
Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Ranking Member
Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Pallone and Ranking Member McMorris Rodgers:

We, the undersigned organizations representing a cross-section of vehicle industry and other stakeholders write in strong support of the “Preventing Auto Recycling Theft” (PART) Act (H.R. 6394), a bill to combat the growing national problem of catalytic converter theft. It is especially timely to raise awareness of this important anti-theft legislation that would greatly assist law enforcement efforts as the nation observes National Police Week (May 11–17).

As you may be aware, catalytic converters are being stolen at increasingly higher rates because they contain valuable metals, such as rhodium, platinum and palladium. Thieves can easily steal catalytic converters from unattended vehicles, and since they are not readily traceable, there is a lucrative market for these stolen parts. These thefts are costing millions of dollars to businesses and vehicle owners alike. In addition, replacing a catalytic converter is costly and often difficult due to the part’s skyrocketing demand and supply chain shortages.

According to the National Insurance Crime Bureau, the number of catalytic converter thefts reported in insurance company claims sharply increased from 2019 to 2020, and 2021 is likely to have been another record year, with some cities reporting that the instances of this crime have tripled. The lack of traceable identifying marks on the catalytic converter allows criminals to launder the parts by selling to local middlemen, often referred to as “core buyers,” who buy stolen parts to then sell to scrap yards or smelters. Stolen catalytic converters can garner anywhere from \$20 to \$350 each on the black market, while the replacement cost to vehicle owners can be as high as \$2,500. Repair costs are often higher because thieves regularly damage other parts of the vehicle when removing the catalytic converter.

H.R. 6394 provides a national framework to help law enforcement combat catalytic converter theft. Because this crime frequently involves trafficking stolen parts across state lines, a federal framework is needed to aid the efforts of local law enforcement. The bill also requires new vehicles to have unique, traceable identifying numbers stamped on catalytic converters at the time of assembly, and establishes a federal criminal penalty for the theft, sale, trafficking or known purchase of stolen catalytic converters of up to five years in jail.

The PART Act provides local law enforcement with the necessary support needed to combat rising catalytic converter theft. We urge the House Energy and Commerce Committee to support and hold a hearing on this bipartisan legislation, H.R. 6394, to address this growing national problem which is affecting consumers and small businesses alike. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

National Automobile Dealers Association
National Independent Automobile Dealers Association
American Car Rental Association
American Truck Dealers
American Trucking Associations
Major Cities Chiefs Association
NAFA Fleet Management Association
National Auto Auction Association
National Automatic Merchandising Association
National Insurance Crime Bureau
National Private Truck Council
National RV Dealers Association
National Salvage Vehicle Reporting Program
National Sheriffs' Association
National Tank Truck Carriers