



March 6, 2017

Connecticut General Assembly
Transportation Committee
The Honorable Antonio Guerrero, House Co-Chair
The Honorable Carlo Leone, Senate Co-Chair
The Honorable Toni Boucher, Senate Co-Chair
Legislative Office Building
Room 2300
Hartford, CT 06106

**Re: Opposition to H.B. 7097 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE LICENSING OF NEW AND USED
CAR DEALERS**

Dear Chairmen:

The Connecticut River Valley Chamber of Commerce represents over 600 businesses based primarily in East Hartford and Glastonbury. Our membership ranges from home-based businesses to the largest manufacturer in East Hartford. Among our members are several automobile retailers, significant taxpayers, who oppose this measure.

The Chamber strongly opposes H.B. 7097 as its passage would seriously jeopardize the successful, long-standing franchise model. The passage of such a measure would impact over 14,000 Connecticut employees in the automobile sector as it currently exists.

Tesla has the opportunity to work within Connecticut's franchise system and compete in an already level playing field. Should HB 7097 be passed, the door opens for Tesla to sell directly to consumers which bypasses the current franchise laws. Our state is NOT in a position to compromise jobs, local businesses or tax revenue.

We strongly urge you to oppose H.B 7097; thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Ellen Dombrowski".

Mary Ellen Dombrowski
President