

December 6, 2017

Representative William M. Straus Massachusetts State House
24 Beacon St.
Room 134

Boston, MA 02133
To the Joint Committee on Transportation,

My name is Sarah Robson and this is my husband David Robson and we are here before the Transportation Committee today to ask for your support in adopting the proposed Bill S.2148 to amend Chapter 311 of the acts of 2010 An Act Relative to the Registration and Inspection of Street Rod and Custom Vehicles.

The bill proposed in 2010 was originally aimed at trying to provide registration guidance for the growing number of kit cars that have no VIN numbers. However, it became mired down with debate and when the dust settled, the wording of the law became so generalized and stringent that it now applied to all classic cars, kit or otherwise.

These rules incorrectly invalidate current VIN numbers, forcing a car to be re-categorized under a Massachusetts issued VIN number that loses the historical value and timeline of these cars.

These classic cars are a piece of American history. The automobile has long been the icon of America and car owners such as myself restore and put these vehicles on display for the public to enjoy. However, the benefit of these classic cars goes beyond enjoyment, it also gives back to the community. Many of our car clubs hold charity events that donate money to organizations in the

community such as the Fisher House and D.A.R.E. Additionally, the crowds that these shows draw, help to stimulate local restaurants and businesses.

The hobby's positive contribution to the Commonwealth extends far beyond charitable giving. This hobby is a multi-million dollar industry. Restoring one of these vehicles takes years of work from many different people and businesses. As Chapter 311 (of the acts of 2010 An Act Relative to the Registration and Inspection of Street Rod and Custom Vehicles) puts an end to the ability to accurately identify these vehicles and preserve their historical provenance for the collector, which will decrease their value and market appeal, it will effectively put an end to the livelihood of these small business owners, many of whom are already under pressure from our current economic state.

We would like to thank John Buchanan from Mass Cruisers Auto Club, Representative Jim Miceli, and Senator Anne M. Gobi for their help in drafting this bill. We hope you will show your support of Bill S. 2148 to ensure the continuation and preservation of the street rod and custom vehicle industry.

Sincerely,

David M. Robson
Sarah M. Robson