May 15, 2014

Honorable Hannah-Beth Jackson
California State Senate
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 686 (Jackson) – auto safety recalls – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Jackson:

The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers is proud to support enactment of your bill, SB 686, which help protect the motoring public, and will also create at least 1,000 new good-paying jobs for skilled automotive technicians in California, performing safety recall repairs on the millions of vehicles that still have outstanding safety recalls pending.

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (US GAO) found that, on average, only 70% of vehicles that are subject to safety recalls are repaired, leaving millions more that continue to put the motoring public at risk.

In addition, according to Carfax, their analysis shows that “36 million cars now on the road, or roughly one in seven, are subject to a safety-related recall but have never been repaired.” (Source: Carfax, quoted by CNN, “Many GM recalled cars won't be repaired,” April 22, 2014.)

There is no excuse for auto dealers to fail to ensure that safety recall repairs are performed, prior to putting their customers into a car, pickup, SUV, or van, or other passenger vehicle, whether the vehicle is new or used.

We represent approximately 13,000 members of the Machinists Union who work in California. All of them are dedicated to performing high-quality work to help ensure that Californians are protected from serious safety defects that lead to safety recalls, such as brakes that fail, air bags that fail to inflate when needed, components that catch on fire, steering loss, and other life-threatening safety defects.

We strongly urge all members of the California legislature to work with you to enact this important safety measure.

Should you or your staff have any questions regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Boysen D. Anderson, Coordinator
IAMAW Automotive Department

James Beno, DBR
IAMAW District Lodge 190