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Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 4910
Diamond Bar, Calif 91765-0910

Shipping Address:
1575 S. Valley Vista Dr.
Diamond Bar, Calif. 91765-3914

Telephone: 909-610-2030

E-mail: sema@sema.org
Website: www.sema.org

February 23, 2022

Kansas Senate
Senate Committee on Transportation
Room 546-S
Topeka, Kansas

Re: SEMA Support for HB 2594

Dear Members of the Transportation Committee:

On behalf of the Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA), I am writing to request your support for House Bill (H.B.) 2594, which changes existing law to allow for the temporary removal and reinstallation of an antique vehicle's vehicle identification number (VIN) if it is reasonably necessary for repair or restoration, and there is no reason to suspect the vehicle has been stolen.

Representing the \$48 billion specialty automotive industry, SEMA is a trade association made up of approximately 7,500 mostly small businesses nationwide, including 62 in Kansas, that manufacture, market and sell specialty automotive aftermarket products, including appearance, performance, comfort, convenience and technology products for motor vehicles.

Under current Kansas law, it is illegal to sell or possess a motor vehicle whose VIN has been destroyed, removed, altered, or defaced. In these instances, the vehicle is contraband, and under the statute, must be destroyed.

Recently, the case of Richard Martinez and his 1959 Corvette has received national media attention¹. Mr. Martinez purchased his dream car from a dealership in Indiana and upon attempting to title and register the vehicle back home in Kansas, was told that during the restoration process, the VIN plate on the dashboard was reinstalled using new rivets. As a result, the car was deemed illegal contraband. Despite the state conceding that Mr. Martinez had done nothing wrong, the law dictated that the car be destroyed. If enacted, HB 2594 would prevent future antique vehicles—American classics— from being seized and crushed because the VIN was temporarily removed during the restoration process.

¹ <https://reason.com/2021/10/18/although-the-state-of-kansas-admits-this-guy-is-innocent-it-still-wants-to-destroy-his-1959-corvette/>

If you have any questions, or require additional information please feel free to contact me by phone at (202) 794-8279 or by e-mail at christianr@sema.org.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robinson", with a large, stylized initial "C" on the left side.

Christian Robinson
Director, State Government Affairs
Specialty Equipment Market Association