



Testimony on House Bill 7142

Submitted by Isabel Blank, External Relations Manager

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Good afternoon distinguished members of the Transportation Committee. My name is Isabel Blank. I am Manager, External Affairs at the Yankee Institute for Public Policy, and I am writing to testify in favor of **House Bill 7142: An Act Concerning the Licensing of New and Used Car Dealers**. For questions or follow up, please contact me at isabel@yankeeinstitute.org.

Currently, Tesla sells its vehicles directly to consumers in about 40 other states. These include our neighbors in New York, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. They are still not allowed to sell vehicles in Connecticut.

Additionally, Connecticut is one of the only states that completely prohibits automaker-owned operations, which means Tesla buyers can't even take delivery in the state.

These laws originally existed to protect dealerships from potential unfair competition against their own automakers, but instead of using them as intended, dealerships are trying to apply them to automakers that don't have franchise dealerships, like Tesla.

This is a free-market issue to its core.

A well-intended regulation is being used by a group of people to maintain an artificial monopoly. We must address this issue by explicitly allowing the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to issue dealer's licenses to electric vehicle manufacturers, as this bill allows. This will ensure the law's original intent still stands while allowing Tesla and other vehicle manufactures to participate fairly in the Connecticut market.

For these reasons, we urge you to support **House Bill 7142**.