



March 11, 2015

The Honorable Tom Craddick  
Room 1W.09  
P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, TX 78768

Dear Representative Craddick:

We are writing today to express our support for the Texas franchised dealer laws. Texas franchised dealer laws protect consumer and prevent monopolies. But, more importantly to us as community leaders, the franchised dealer system encourages a partnership between dealers and their communities. Our franchised dealers work hand in hand as community partners and we are lucky to have their leadership on our community boards and their financial support of the various events and organizations that make Texas such a great place to live and raise our families.

Franchised dealers represent 1200 businesses in nearly 300 communities throughout Texas. Collectively, franchised dealers employ more than 90,000 Texans at an annual payroll of \$5 billion and make a \$500 million annual capital investment in their businesses and communities. These Texas communities, our Texas communities, depend on the franchised dealers for good jobs, quality service, competitive pricing, and philanthropic partnership to keep our communities thriving.

There is not one compelling reason to threaten a system that works well for Texas and protects Texas consumers. Not one. Yet, the potential negative ripple effect for entertaining such legislation is significant and it will most significantly impact those small Texas communities who can least afford to see job and philanthropic losses.

California based Tesla is seeking a special exemption from our important franchise laws in Texas. Yet, nothing in state law is preventing a citizen of Texas from purchasing a Tesla today. Many Texas franchise dealers are eager to help Tesla succeed and have contacted Tesla seeking an opportunity to retail their vehicles – including offering to absorb any capital expenses required for the Tesla model. Tesla would instead prefer a special set of rules for just their company – putting profits over Texas communities.

We urge you to say no to special interests and support the current franchised dealer laws as we thank our local dealers who keep our communities thriving.

Sincerely,

Robert Burns  
President & CEO

109 N. Main Street  
Midland, Texas 79701

o 432.683.3381  
f 432.686.3556  
e [info@midlandtxchamber.com](mailto:info@midlandtxchamber.com)  
w [midlandtxchamber.com](http://midlandtxchamber.com)

