



February 8, 2018

The Hon. Richard T. Mazza
Chair, Senate Committee on Transportation
777 West Lakeshore Drive
Colchester, VT

Dear Sen. Mazza and members of the Senate Transportation Committee,

The RV Industry Association is a national trade association that represents approximately 300 manufacturers and suppliers who build 98 percent of all recreation vehicles made in the U.S. – including motorhomes, travel trailers, camping trailers, truck campers, and park models.

We urge that the members of the Senate Committee on Transportation oppose the proposed change to 9 V.S.A. § 4172(b) which would be detrimental to the unique manufacturing and warranty processes of the recreation vehicle industry. Unlike the automobile industry where cars are produced in a vertically-integrated manufacturing process, motorhomes are produced in a multi-stage process completed by separate manufacturers. The chassis manufacturer is responsible for constructing the chassis, chassis cab and that portion of a motorhome devoted to its propulsion. The chassis is delivered to the final-stage manufacturer which is only responsible for assembling the “home” portion of a motorhome and attaching it to the chassis. The final-stage manufacturer and the chassis manufacturer provide separate written warranties to the consumer. This amendment creates an unworkable situation in which the final-stage manufacturer is made responsible for meeting the express warranty of the chassis manufacturer.

Our association agrees with the sentiment of this proposal in trying to reach a speedier resolution for the consumer in cases where a lemon has been declared. However, this proposal seeks to accomplish this by holding the final-stage manufacturer accountable for a vehicle component they themselves neither produced nor warranted and on which they have neither the means nor ability to perform necessary repairs. We ask that the committee delay this change until the following legislative session to allow our industry more time to work with the Transportation Board on a suitable resolution for all parties.

Please contact me at mpalicz@rvia.org or 571-665-5853 if you would like to discuss this further.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Mike Palicz
Manager, Government Relations