



STATE OF VERMONT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

February 14, 2018

Mike Palicz
Manager, Government Relations
Recreation Vehicle Industry Association
VIA Email: mpalicz@rvia.org

Mr. Palicz:

We received your correspondence dated February 8, 2018, expressing opposition to the proposed change to 9 V.S.A. § 4172(b) contemplated for inclusion in the Senate Committee on Transportation's strike-all amendment to S.272.

When the General Assembly enacted the New Motor Vehicle Arbitration law (Lemon Law), 9 V.S.A. chapter 115, it adopted a statement of legislative intent at 9 V.S.A. § 4170 which includes a declaration that "manufacturers, distributors, and importers of new motor vehicles should be obligated to provide speedy and less costly resolution of automobile warranty problems." It also adopted a definition of "manufacturer" that references "any person, resident or nonresident, who manufactures *or assembles* new motor vehicles" (Emphasis added). See 9 V.S.A. § 4171.

To promote the purpose of the Lemon Law to provide speedy and less costly resolution of automobile warranty problems, and consistent with existing language of the Lemon Law and Superior Court precedent in Vermont, the Senate and House Committees on Transportation intend to approve for consideration by the full Senate and House an amendment to the Lemon Law to ensure that a consumer who purchases a recreation vehicle that does not conform to a warrantee covering its chassis, chassis cab, or any portion of the recreation vehicle devoted to its propulsion, may obtain redress under the Lemon Law from one entity—the manufacturer—for problems with any such component, even if these components are purported to be covered under separate warranties of their respective makers.

We respectfully request that as soon as possible, the Recreation Vehicle Industry Association work with the Vermont Motor Vehicle Arbitration Board to attempt to reach agreement on language to recommend to the Committees that would accomplish this goal. You can submit any agreed recommended language to the committee assistants, Ken Feld at kfeld@leg.state.vt.us and Barbara Dall at bdall@leg.state.vt.us. Even if an agreement is not reached, the Senate and House Committees on Transportation intend to move forward during this 2018 session on approving such language for consideration by the full Senate and House.

Thank you for your input and for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Sen. Richard T. Mazza, Chairman
Senate Committee on Transportation
Vermont General Assembly

Rep. Patrick M. Brennan, Chairman
House Committee on Transportation
Vermont General Assembly

Cc: John Zicconi, Executive Secretary, Transportation Board