

Two year state inspections would lead to more unsafe vehicles on the road. The most notable reason for this is wear parts like tires, exhaust, suspension and brakes. Brake pads for example last 20-30 thousand miles in Vermont, sometimes much less, due to rust and mud and other factors. The average Vermonter drives twelve thousand miles a year, so with a two year inspection, there would be an average of 24 thousand miles between safety inspections performed by professionals. The fact is that many drivers don't bring their cars to garages for checkups between their inspections, and tires and brakes that meet standards one year will sometimes be very unsafe by the next. With two year inspections this problem would be significantly exacerbated, and we would see an increase in dangerous vehicles on the road.

One issue we see at our small independent garage is that many of the large dealerships offer a free lifetime state inspection. This is clearly a conflict of interest. We have customers come to us after attempting to get their free inspection. They arrive with an estimate in hand, almost always in the multi thousand dollar range. We carefully look over the estimate and then bring in the car to do our own inspection. 9/10 times we find there are many things on the list that do not need to be replaced. We often are able to save the customer lots of money while providing an honest state inspection. Two year inspections would mean fewer visits to these dealers, which means a loss of revenue, so this behavior would most likely increase to compensate for that loss. This should also be looked at by the state. I don't think it should be legal to offer free inspections, and this is just asking for abuse.

I am of the opinion that the current state inspection system could be reformed, but this bill is not the best way to go about it. One place the state could direct resources is to focus on rust prevention. Currently, due to road salt, brine and other factors as well as strict inspection standards around rust, vehicles that have perfectly functional drivetrains fail inspection due to rust. I recommend a state sponsored undercoating program, which would help Vermonters cars last longer. I think our resources and time would be much better spent developing state-operated rust prevention facilities, or vouchers for undercoats, which would keep otherwise good vehicles on the road longer. This would save Vermonters from expensive rust repairs or even replacing their car.

My professional opinion is that this bill is down right dangerous. With the current state of the roads here, cars are being brutalized every day. It's upsetting to see law makers use up time and resources this way, while the root problems are not being addressed and causing expensive

repairs. Road conditions and rust need to be top priorities if saving Vermonters money is the goal. I believe we need to start with the core problems, before making more changes in the inspection laws.

Respectfully,

Gabriel Cole