



January 28, 2026

Senate Committee on Transportation
Vermont Senate
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633

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Re: 26-0743 - An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to laws relating to motor vehicles

Dear Senators:

On behalf of the Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA), I am writing to express our strong support for the titling, registration, and operation of miniature vehicles in Vermont.

SEMA is a trade association with a diverse membership, representing over 7,000 small businesses nationwide, including seven companies in Vermont. Our members are manufacturers, distributors, retailers, publishers, auto restorers, street rod builders, restylers, car clubs, race teams, and more. They specialize in various parts and accessories that enhance vehicles, making them more attractive, unique, convenient, high-performing, safer, more efficient, and even like-new again.

95 percent of SEMA's members are small businesses.

Vermont has a thriving specialty automotive aftermarket industry. This industry significantly contributes to the state's economy, generating \$835.21 million in economic impact. This translates to supporting 3,202 jobs, \$205.48 million in total wages and benefits, and \$71.91 million in state and local taxes paid.

Kei trucks and other compact utility vehicles align with SEMA's core mission to protect consumer choice, support small businesses, and promote innovation within the specialty automotive aftermarket. These vehicles serve a growing audience of enthusiasts, farmers, municipalities, and small businesses that need practical, affordable transportation options rather than full-size pickups.

For SEMA member companies, kei trucks represent meaningful aftermarket opportunity. Demand for parts, maintenance, restoration, and customization supports small manufacturers, installers, and retailers that specialize in niche and purpose-built vehicles. As interest grows, so does t

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he need for clear and consistent regulatory treatment that allows these businesses to operate with confidence.

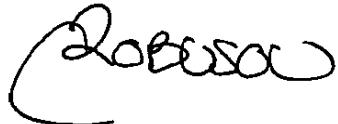
Kei trucks also underscore the importance of regulatory clarity. Because they differ from conventional passenger vehicles, inconsistent state policies can create uncertainty for owners and businesses alike. SEMA supports reasonable, safety-focused frameworks that recognize legitimate uses while avoiding unnecessary restrictions on lawful vehicle ownership.

From a consumer standpoint, kei trucks expand vehicle choice by offering efficient, compact alternatives well suited for rural communities, worksites, and small-scale operations. Preserving access to these vehicles supports economic activity, innovation, and a diverse automotive marketplace.

For these reasons, SEMA supports policies that recognize the value of kei trucks, provide regulatory certainty, and maintain appropriate safety standards, ensuring the specialty automotive aftermarket can continue to grow and serve a wide range of consumers and businesses.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue. SEMA stands ready to assist in any way possible to ensure the successful implementation of this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christian Robinson".

Christian Robinson
Senior Director, State Government Affairs