

Vermont Committee
Vermont State House
Montpelier, VT

Dear Vermont Senators and Representatives,

We are writing to express our concerns regarding the proposed changes to Vermont's vehicle inspection requirements, specifically the shift from annual inspections to biannual inspections.

As the owners of Pittsford Automotive Center in Pittsford, Vermont, we have been serving our community for nearly ten years. We are a family-run small business with a strong reputation for honesty, fair pricing, and quality workmanship. Throughout our time in business, we have maintained full compliance with all licensing requirements and have never had any issues with our inspection credentials. Our goal has always been simple: keep Vermonters safe on the road while keeping repairs affordable and transparent.

We believe that moving to biannual inspections will ultimately cost Vermonters more, not less. When vehicles go two years between inspections, many drivers will naturally postpone maintenance and necessary repairs. Over time, small issues become larger, more expensive problems. A worn brake pad becomes damaged rotors or calipers. A minor suspension issue turns into uneven tire wear and costly replacements. Delaying oversight does not eliminate expenses — it compounds them.

Annual safety inspections create accountability and awareness. They give vehicle owners a clear understanding of their car's condition and what is required to maintain safe operation. If affordability is the concern, we believe a more balanced approach would be to continue yearly safety checks while providing customers with a detailed list of necessary safety repairs. The customer could receive a sticker indicating the vehicle was inspected and that they were informed of any safety concerns. If they choose not to address those repairs and are later involved in an accident related to those known issues, that responsibility would rest with the vehicle owner.

This approach maintains public safety standards while giving Vermonters flexibility and transparency.

Additionally, changing inspection requirements will significantly impact small, locally owned automotive repair shops across Vermont. Annual inspections bring customers through our doors and allow us to build relationships, educate them about preventative maintenance, and keep their vehicles safe. For many small shops, inspection revenue and the associated service work are vital to staying open. Reducing inspections to every two years will reduce customer traffic and may force some Vermont repair facilities to close.

If the goal is truly to make Vermont more affordable for its residents, we believe there are more effective areas to focus on — such as addressing rising property taxes and business taxes that directly impact families and small business owners. Easing those financial burdens would

provide meaningful, broad relief to Vermonters without compromising vehicle safety standards or threatening the viability of local repair shops. Making our state more affordable should strengthen both our communities and our small businesses, not unintentionally weaken them.

We respectfully ask the Committee to carefully consider the long-term safety and economic impact of this proposed change.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Gordon Fox and Meghan Fox
Pittsford Automotive Center
Pittsford, Vermont