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VISTA ISSUE POSITION

May 26, 2006: The following is the National Automotive Trades Association (NATA) position regarding Vehicle Information and Service Tools Access (VISTA) as provided by Glenn McNally of NATA in his initial proposal to the Automotive Aftermarket Retailers of Ontario (AARO) three years ago.

All automotive repair outlets serving the motoring public in Canada require access to service information and tools and training in order to provide necessary service to vehicles in a timely and cost-efficient fashion. Repairs to ensure that vehicles comply with provincially mandated safety and emission programs require that Canadian technicians have access to this information on a level consistent with their American counterparts.

Recent developments in automotive technology require that replacement components be programmed or initialized using information and equipment available from the vehicle manufacturer. The database listed at <http://www.nastf.ca> lists manufacturer Web sites that provide PCM reflash and initialization data, service info, on-demand training programs and manufacturer-validated service tools. NATA seeks access on an equal level with our Automotive Service Association (ASA) counterparts in the United States, and would be prepared to enter into an agreement with OEMs here in Canada similar to the one that exists between ASA and the new car manufacturers in the United States.

NATA members wish to establish a voluntary agreement to provide aftermarket service providers with access to this information, in order that they may continue in their partnership with OE service provider outlets in providing the level of service the Canadian motoring public has come to enjoy and expect in the past. The service providers represented by NATA affiliated associations are more concerned with these needs than the issues being raised in the U.S. under the Right to Repair legislative effort. Right to Repair proponents appear to be seeking access to information that would allow aftermarket parts suppliers to acquire engineering information on replacement parts through legislation, versus diplomatic discussion, dialogue and agreed-to consensus.

For further information on this subject, please contact VISTA spokesperson Glenn McNally:

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The National Automotive Trades Association of Canada currently represents:

- Automotive Retailers Association of British Columbia (ARA)
- Automotive Service and Repair Association of Alberta (ASRA)
- Saskatchewan Association of Automotive Repairers (SAAR)
- Automotive Trades Association of Manitoba (ATA)
- Hamilton District Autobody Repair Association (HARA)
- Automotive Aftermarket Retailers of Ontario (AARO)
- Collision Repair Association of Nova Scotia (CRANS)