



August 23, 2023

The Honorable Thomas Umberg
1021 O Street, Suite 6530
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 71 (Umberg) – Small Claims and Limited Civil Case – SUPPORT
(As Amended July 3, 2023)

Dear Senator Umberg:

The Alliance for Automotive Innovation is pleased to express our support for your SB 71 which would increase the small claims court jurisdiction over actions that do not exceed \$12,500 and would increase the amount in controversy permitted in other actions within the jurisdiction of the small claims court. The bill would also increase the limit on the amount in controversy for an action or special proceeding to be treated as a limited civil case to \$35,000.

The Alliance for Automotive Innovation (Auto Innovators) is the leading advocacy group for the auto industry, representing innovative manufacturers and value chain partners who together produce nearly 98 percent of all light-duty vehicles sold in the United States. Members include U.S. and international motor vehicle manufacturers, original equipment suppliers, technology and other automotive-related companies and trade associations.

SB 71 will benefit consumers and the auto industry by reducing litigation costs and accelerating case timelines in lemon law cases. It is not in the interest of consumers to pursue long, costly cases with an uncertain outcome when faster and less costly options are available to them. Often times, the cost of litigation is actually higher than the value of the vehicle in dispute. SB 71 increases the opportunity for consumers to pursue this better alternative.

SB 71 is good for consumers by expanding the opportunity for them to successfully resolve their dispute in a more timely and less costly manner. Additionally, SB 71 will help to improve litigation and lessen the overcrowded burden in California's court system. For all these reasons, Auto Innovators is pleased to support SB 71.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the Auto Innovators position, please contact me at caugustine@autosinnovate.org or John Moffatt, the Auto Innovators' legislative representative at (916) 446-6752. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Curt Augustine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Curt" being more prominent than the last name "Augustine".

Curt Augustine
Senior Director, State Affairs
Alliance for Automotive Innovation