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January 10, 2020

The Honorable Makan Delrahim
Assistant Attorney General
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Assistant Attorney General Delrahim,

I have heard from numerous small business owners and consumers in Louisiana who are concerned that the Department of Justice (DOJ) may terminate the 1963 Consent Decree that prohibits insurance carriers from engaging in anti-competitive behavior (such as price fixing, collusion and steering) in the automobile repair market. While I support DOJ's efforts to undertake a broad scale review of the 1,300 existing antitrust judgments that do not currently have termination dates, I believe that the collision repair consent decree should be preserved to protect the consumers in Louisiana and across the country who deserve a free and fair marketplace when they are seeking repairs to their vehicles.

Small businesses in the collision repair business in Louisiana, and their customers, make a compelling case that the collision repair consent decree is unique and merits continuation. I agree that this consent decree provides common-sense consumer protections which remain important and necessary in Louisiana and throughout the country. Terminating this Consent Decree would improperly encourage the kind of anti-competitive activity which led to the decree in the first place.

Simply put, the collision repair consent decree appears to be unique. I respectfully urge DOJ to heed the voices of the small businesses and members of the motoring public in Louisiana and elsewhere who would like to see the preservation of this Consent Decree. Please let me know you if you have any questions or need any additional information from me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Abraham", written over a blue horizontal line.

Ralph Abraham, M.D.
Member of Congress