

BILL CASSIDY, M.D.
LOUISIANA

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE:
SUITE SH-520
HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-5824

United States Senate

COMMITTEES:
FINANCE
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS
ENERGY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

January 31, 2020

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

Dear Assistant Attorney General Delrahim,

I am writing today concerning the proposed termination of the consent decree in *United States v. Association of Casualty and Surety Companies, et al.* In August of 2019, the Department of Justice proposed a review of around 1,300 antitrust judgments enacted without sunset dates. I have heard directly from concerned constituents who expressed to me that this particular consent decree helps to maintain fair competition in the automobile repair shop business by keeping a more competitive environment in an industry where insurance companies have the ability to unduly influence every aspect of the repair process.

Eliminating this agreement might jeopardize consumer automotive protections by prompting the price incentive to use the lowest cost replacement parts, regardless of quality. The absence of this consent decree would create a situation where price fixing for auto repair claims becomes the unfettered norm. Customers would be deprived a competitive market where both a fair price and high quality would be the determining factors of their business. Instead the consumer market would be driven to only those repair shops who cater most closely to the will of large insurance companies.

I encourage the Department of Justice to review each of the consent decrees that do not have a sunset and make a just determination on each one. Eliminating this consent decree will only encourage the anticompetitive behavior that precipitated its enactment in the first place. I believe the measures allotted by this particular consent decree make its continuation a necessary decision.

Sincerely,



Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator

3600 JACKSON STREET
SUITE 115A
ALEXANDRIA, LA 71301
(318) 448-7176

5555 HILTON AVENUE
SUITE 100
BATON ROUGE, LA 70808
(225) 929-7711

101 LA RUE FRANCE
SUITE 505
LAFAYETTE, LA 70508
(337) 261-1400

1 LAKESHORE DRIVE
SUITE 1155
LAKE CHARLES, LA 70629
(337) 261-1400

3421 N. CAUSEWAY BOULEVARD
SUITE 204
METAIRIE, LA 70002
(504) 838-0130

1651 LOUISVILLE AVENUE
SUITE 123
MONROE, LA 70201
(318) 324-2111

6425 YOUREE DRIVE
SUITE 415
SHREVEPORT, LA 71105
(318) 798-3215