

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-1806

February 21, 2020

Honorable Makan Delrahim  
Assistant Attorney General  
United States Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20530

re: Docket # 63 Civ. 3106, Consent Decree in *U.S. vs Association of Casualty and Surety Companies*

Dear Assistant Attorney General Delrahim,

The Department of Justice (DOJ) has embarked on a necessary review of nearly 1,300 consent decrees which may have outlived their effectiveness and no longer promote competition or benefit American consumers. While I support the department's efforts to remove unnecessary and outdated regulations, I have been in touch with Louisianians who support an existing decree related to the automobile collision repair market and wanted to bring the matter to your attention.

It is my understanding that DOJ has heard from a number of stakeholders who believe the existing decree promotes competition in their local markets, protecting both consumer choice and the viability of individual collision repair shops. Their experiences indicate that if this consent decree were to be terminated, it would lead to a resurgence of the anti-competitive behavior which resulted in the decree's original issuance.

As you may know, I strongly support initiatives that ensure a free and fair market for the repair of automobiles and have been a proponent of ensuring that consumers are able to decide who cares for their property and at what price. It concerns me that the revocation of this decree could allow insurers to supplant an individual consumer's choice in directing work to specific shops or potentially suppressing pricing to decrease the liability of repair costs.

I ask that the department strongly consider potential negative impacts to both consumer choice and the health of our small businesses before taking further action on the matter. Should you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to my staff.

Sincerely,



Garret Graves  
Member of Congress