

Jason P. Klingensmith  
Assistant General Counsel  
Complex Litigation & VSSM



July 26, 2021

Mr. George Gascón  
Los Angeles District Attorney  
Hall of Justice  
211 West Temple Street, Suite 1200  
Los Angeles, CA 90012-3205

Dear Mr. Gascón,

Thank you for your letter dated June 28, 2021 inquiring about the possibilities of collaborating with General Motors to develop a solution to address the growing nationwide problem of catalytic converter theft. We trust that you have directed similar letters to the other major vehicle manufacturers as well, as this issue impacts vehicles produced by every manufacturer of internal combustion engine powered vehicles.

We agree that catalytic converter theft is a serious problem. While additional "safety and defense mechanisms" may be helpful deterrents, or for purposes of identification after a theft has occurred, they are neither the solution nor do they address the root cause of the problem – criminal demand. As with any crime, applying deterrents typically only results in a temporary slow-down in criminal activity while the thieves determine the fastest way to defeat the deterrent. "Safety and defense mechanisms" are merely temporary "band-aids" that ultimately do not address the root cause of the problem. Rather than reduce expense to consumers, these efforts will likely increase overall vehicle purchase and repair costs, while not providing any guarantee that catalytic converter thefts will be prevented.

As this is a complicated nationwide problem involving numerous stakeholders, including vehicle manufacturers, insurance companies, new and used car dealers, law enforcement, and scrap/recycling businesses, we believe the most effective solution is best developed through the collaborative efforts already underway between the various industry trade associations. Conversations are currently taking place with the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators (IAATT), the National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA), the state Automobile Trade Association Executives (ATAE), and the Alliance for Automotive Innovation (AFAI). These groups represent all the previously mentioned stakeholder groups and more, and we believe they are best positioned to help develop a meaningful solution to this problem. If you would like more information on how to contact these organizations, or to participate in their discussions, we are happy to provide the appropriate contact information upon your request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jason P. Klingensmith', written over a blue circular stamp.

Jason P. Klingensmith  
Assistant General Counsel