

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

**April 28, 2025**

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**TIA Sends Letter to Senate in Support of REPAIR Act**

Members of the United States Senate:

We write in support of S. 1379, the Right to Equitable and Professional Auto Industry Repair Act (REPAIR Act). This legislation ensures independent repair shops and aftermarket manufacturers have secure access to vehicle repair and maintenance data. This access is critical to the independent aftermarket industry's ability provide safe, reliable and affordable repairs for your constituents, and we respectfully request that you cosponsor this legislation.

As vehicle technology evolves and grows more complex, repairing and maintaining today's vehicles requires access to vehicle repair data, compatible replacement components, training, and sophisticated diagnostic tools. The REPAIR Act guarantees the right of owners and their designated repair facilities to maintain and repair their vehicles while maintaining the same cybersecurity standards, intellectual property protections and vehicle safety standards that exist today.

Vehicle owner and independent shop access to vehicle repair data is increasingly at risk as Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) tighten control over its availability. Today, OEMs collect terabytes of data from their vehicles wirelessly and store it in their cloud servers. The OEMs then unilaterally decide to whom they give access to this data and under what terms and conditions. (Comment from Alliance for Automotive Innovation to the Bureau of Industry and Security ("BIS") in its Securing the Information and Communications Technology and Services Supply Chain: Connected Car Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking).

These potentially anticompetitive practices leave independent repairers unable to service vehicles and prevent aftermarket suppliers from offering high-quality, safe, and affordable replacement parts to consumers. In fact, an independent survey conducted last year demonstrated that 63% of repair shops report having difficulties making

routine repairs on a daily or weekly basis. Moreover, 51% of shops report sending up to 5 cars per month to the dealer due to data restrictions, resulting in an estimated \$3.1 billion cost to consumers.

This issue will only get worse as the U.S. vehicle fleet ages. According to S&P Global Mobility, the “average age of cars and light trucks in the United States has risen again to a new record of 12.6 years in 2024, up by two months over 2023.” Over 70% of out of warranty vehicle repairs are done in the aftermarket and are generally 36% less expensive than dealerships. Car owners appreciate independent repair shops for their “trustworthiness, reasonable prices, knowledgeable mechanics, and good reputation.”

The independent aftermarket is an essential economic engine in every state across the nation, with more than 4,900,000 employees and a fiscal impact of more than \$500 billion annually. The REPAIR Act eliminates an existential threat to these jobs and the economy, while ensuring a robust ecosystem of repair options. Consumers and fleet owners will be able to select their repair facility of choice and have access to a variety of aftermarket parts. Independent repair shops will continue to be able to provide timely and quality repair and maintenance choices to their customers.

We express our sincere gratitude to Senators Luján and Hawley for continuing to support consumers through this legislation, and we encourage you to join them in doing so as a cosponsor of S. 1379, the REPAIR Act.

Sincerely,

Tire Industry Association and other trade associations

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## **IRS: Missed the April tax-filing due date? File promptly to minimize interest and penalties**

The Internal Revenue Service encourages taxpayers who missed the filing deadline to submit their tax return as soon as possible. Those who missed the deadline to file but owe taxes should file timely to avoid additional penalties and interest.

Taxpayers should keep in mind that requesting an extension allows for additional time to file but not to pay taxes owed. Individuals who owe taxes should file their tax return and pay as soon as they can. Interest and penalties will continue to accrue on the owed taxes until the balance is paid in full.

### **File and pay to limit penalties and interest**

Even if a taxpayer cannot afford to immediately pay the full amount of

taxes owed, they should still file a tax return and pay as much as possible. The IRS offers [options for taxpayers who need help paying their tax bill](#). For more information, [visit the Penalties page on IRS.gov](#).

Taxpayers may qualify for [penalty relief](#) if they have filed and paid timely for the past three years and meet other important requirements. For more information, see the [Administrative penalty relief](#) page on IRS.gov.

### **Online payment options**

Individuals can pay taxes owed securely through [IRS Online Account](#), [IRS Direct Pay](#), [The Electronic Federal Tax Payment System \(EFTPS\)](#), [debit or credit card or digital wallet](#). Taxpayers may also [apply online for a payment plan](#) (including installment agreements).

Those who pay electronically get immediate confirmation after submitting payment. Direct Pay and the EFTPS allow taxpayers to receive payment email notifications. Find additional payment information at [Make a payment](#) on IRS.gov.

### **Due for a refund? Don't overlook filing a tax return**

There's no penalty for filing after the April 15 deadline if a refund is due. Every year, the IRS estimates nearly a million taxpayers who failed to file prior year tax returns are potentially due refund money.

Taxpayers who choose not to file a return because they don't earn enough to meet the filing requirement may miss out on receiving a refund due to potential refundable tax credits. Examples include the [Earned Income Tax Credit](#) and [Child Tax Credit](#). Taxpayers sometimes fail to file a tax return and claim a refund for these credits and others for which they may be eligible.

Taxpayers can track their refund using the [Where's My Refund?](#) tool on IRS.gov, on the [IRS2Go](#) mobile app or by calling the automated refund hotline at [800-829-1954](#). To use the Where's My Refund? tool, taxpayers need the primary Social Security number on the tax return, the filing status and the expected refund amount. The refund status information updates once daily.

Taxpayers who still need to file for the 2024 tax year are encouraged to take advantage of electronic filing options such as IRS [Free File](#), which is available on IRS.gov through Oct. 20, or IRS [Direct File](#), available to qualified taxpayers in 25 states.

### **Choose a trusted tax professional**

Taxpayers who have yet to file a return might consider seeking assistance from a tax preparer. The IRS provides resources if they [need someone to prepare a tax return](#). The [Directory of Federal Tax Return](#)

Preparers with Credentials and Select Qualifications can help taxpayers find tax return preparers with professional certifications recognized by the IRS or who have completed the IRS requirements for the Annual Filing Season Program.

## **Taxpayer Bill of Rights**

Taxpayers have fundamental rights under the law that protect them when interacting with the IRS. The Taxpayer Bill of Rights divides them into 10 categories. IRS Publication 1, Your Rights as a Taxpayer, reiterates these rights along with the agency's obligation to protect them.

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## **IRS Encourages Taxpayers to Check Withholding Now for Next Year**

The Internal Revenue Service reminds taxpayers that proper tax withholding now is key to avoiding surprises when they file their tax return next year. Making any needed adjustments earlier in the year means taxpayers won't have to make a big change later in the year to catch up.

The IRS Tax Withholding Estimator is a free online tool that helps workers, independent contractors and retirees determine if they are having the right amount of federal income tax withheld from their paychecks. Using it can prevent taxpayers from having an unexpectedly large tax bill or a substantial refund when they file in 2026.

### **Why use the Estimator?**

Taxes are pay-as-you-go, which means that taxpayers need to pay their tax as they receive their income. They do this through withholding. For employees, "withholding" refers to the federal income tax portion of each paycheck that an employer takes out for tax purposes. It can also mean the amount from earnings that self-employed people and others voluntarily set aside to pay their estimated taxes.

After using the Tax Withholding Estimator, taxpayers can determine if they need to submit an updated Form W-4, Employee's Withholding Certificate, to their employer or adjust the amount they voluntarily set aside for tax purposes. By adjusting tax withholding, individuals can:

- Prevent owing money and potential penalties at tax time.
- Adjust withholdings to increase take-home pay instead of waiting for a refund.

### **Use the tool once a year**

By using this tool once a year, taxpayers can manage their estimates based on any personal life change, such as buying a home, changing

jobs, having a child or changing their marital status.

For individuals who recently completed their 2024 tax return, the IRS advises them to use the Tax Withholding Estimator that considers all income sources such as full-time wages, side jobs and any sale of services or commodities typically reported on Form 1099-K.

### **Required documents**

For an effective tax withholding estimate, the IRS recommends taxpayers gather certain documents including:

- All income statements, including those of your spouse if filing jointly
- Data from other sources of earnings
- Their most recent income tax return

Publication 505, Tax Withholding and Estimated Tax, provides instructions for taxpayers with complex tax situations that are difficult to solve through the Tax Withholding Estimator. These cases may involve taxpayers responsible for the alternative minimum tax or other taxes and those with long-term capital gains or qualified dividends.

### **More information**

For more information on the IRS Tax Withholding Estimator, review the Tax Withholding Estimator FAQs at [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov).

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## **QR Code Available for TIA "Right to Repair - Report Your Issue Webpage**

The Tire Industry Association (TIA) is excited to announce that its "Right to Repair - Report Your Issue" webpage is now even easier to access with a new QR code, conveniently available for scanning in the shop.

This tool empowers shop owners and technicians to report instances where they face barriers to diagnosing or repairing vehicles, providing critical data to help protect the right to repair for all.

With reports increasing of automakers restricting access to both wired (OBD-II) and wireless (telematics) diagnostic and repair information, TIA aims to document the real-world impacts of these restrictions on businesses, consumers, and the broader economy.

### **Why the Right-to-Repair Form Matters**

The form gathers key information about repair challenges, including:

- Vehicle specifics: Make, model, and year.
- Maintenance attempt details: The type of repair being performed and

whether diagnostic codes were accessible.

- Barriers encountered: Lack of proper tools, unavailable OEM documentation, refusal to sell parts, or required software updates.
- Current vehicle status: Whether the repair was completed or the vehicle remains inoperable.

TIA assures users that all submissions will remain confidential, and no identifying personal or business information will be disclosed when case studies are presented on Capitol Hill.

Simply scan the QR code in your shop to access the form and help advocate for the industry's future!

To request a QR code emailed to you, please send an email to [rlittlefield2@tireindustry.org](mailto:rlittlefield2@tireindustry.org)



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