



Using Economics to Support Legislation

Challenge

In 2007 a coalition of independent auto repair service providers came to JDA because they were losing business to car dealers who were refusing to share repair information related to new high-tech automobiles. To reclaim lost ground, the coalition launched the “Right to Repair” campaign, an effort to pass Federal and state legislation that would require car dealerships to share information about fixing vehicles with independent repair shops. The state of Massachusetts was particularly receptive to the idea, and became the primary focus of the “Right to Repair” legislative efforts.

Solution

John Dunham and Associates (JDA) developed economic arguments to help bolster the campaign. JDA created an economic model that demonstrated the \$508.36 million annual savings to consumers by providing them with more choice; as well as another economic model to show the time and cost loss for garages that turn down jobs due to a lack of repair information.

Result

The economic results were used in communications and lobbying materials to help advance the legislation. Each year the coalition made progress on the issue, and finally, in 2012, Massachusetts became the first state to pass “Right to Repair” legislation.



United States

- Economic Impact Report
- Economic Impact Table
- Methodology

Effective use of our interactive mapping applications along with our economic analyses can dramatically extend the impact of our clients’ efforts in the public policy arena.