



Colorado Automobile Dealers Association

Final Stretch for Sunset Review Legislation, SB-221

By CAR lobbyist Jeremy Cottrell

The Sunset Review bill for the Colorado Motor Vehicle Dealer Board passed Thursday in the Business Affairs and Labor Committee with a unanimous vote.

The more 'telling' vote was one on the make-up of the Motor Vehicle Dealer Board (MVDB), in which the committee voted seven to three (7 to 3) in our favor to maintain the current composition of the board.

While our stance was threatened once again by a last second amendment to weaken dealer representation on the MVDB, we were able to persevere. The amendment, offered by the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) sought to modify the current composition to the following: two new dealers, two used dealers, three public members, one county clerk, one person with financial auto lending experience, and either one new or used dealer to be determined and appointed by Governor Ritter.

It is our belief that the strength of our position was supported by the quality of testimony of those who do or have served on the MVDB on the past.

The CAR Legislative Policy Committee—Sunset Review Topic Group had established a list of 12 priorities. We are winning on each of the 12 priorities.

CAR lobbyists Mike Feeley and Jeremy Cottrell provided the 'feet on the ground and much of the thrust' that engineered legislative victory, along with support of other auto retail advocates.

GROUPS WORKING FOR PASSAGE OF SENATE BILL 221:

- Colorado Auto Dealers Association (CADA)
- Colorado Independent Auto Dealers Association (CIADA)
- Colorado Auto Brokers Association (CABA)
- Power-sports Dealers Association of Colorado (PDAC)
- Transwest Trucks
- Colorado Automobile Retailers (CAR)

DEALERS AND ADVOCATES WHO TESTIFIED IN SUPPORT OF THE BILL AND AGAINST ADVERSE AMENDMENTS

- Mike Feeley, CAR Lobbyist
- Jeff Carlson, Glenwood Springs Ford
- John Medved, Medved Colorado
- Gretchen Olson, Attorney and former public member of MVDB
- Bob Feder, current public member MVDB
- Jim Varner, current public member of MVDB
- Jon Kroneberger, CIADA and former dealer member of MVDB

Thanks to everyone who participated and to those who made calls or sent emails.

The next stop for this bill is the House Chamber at which there should be a "2nd Reading" vote by Monday of next week.

We expect some to try to amend the bill to eliminate the ban on Sunday sales and have taken a proactive approach by organizing and contacting legislators to reiterate our position on this issue.

While there are many obstacles we have overcome we know the hardest battles remain before we can claim a complete victory. The final stretch is still before us.