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Consumers for Auto Reliability and Safety

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Consumer Groups Seek Walker Veto of Bill to Gut Wisconsin Lemon Law: Sour Deal for Wisconsin Car Buyers

The nation's top two lemon law groups today asked Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker to veto an industry back bill that would gut the state's lemon law. In a letter to Governor Walker, the Center for Auto Safety and Consumers for Auto Reliability and Safety wrote: "If enacted, AB200 will remove any incentive for auto manufacturers to comply with Wisconsin's Lemon Law."

CARS President Rosemary Shahan said:

Under Wisconsin's current law, consumers have a period of 6 years from vehicle delivery to file a lemon law claim and seek a refund. AB200 reduces this period to 3 years – regardless how long the warranty is. This eviscerates important protections for new car buyers, who will lose state lemon law protection, even if they bought the car because the manufacturer advertised and promoted it as having a 10-year warranty.

CAS Executive Director Clarence Ditlow said:

Under the proposed law, manufacturers would be able to stall and delay, and fail to honor their warranties, with impunity. Auto companies know all too well that most consumers desperately need a safe, reliable vehicle, and many will give up and trade in their lemon at a substantial loss, hoping the next vehicle they buy is not a lemon. Justice delayed is justice denied.

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Letter to Governor Walker Assembly Bill 200