

"You bought, you own it! That's what most of us think anyway when we buy a car. We should be able to do what we want with it, whether modifying the engine for better performance or taking it to our favorite mechanic to have it repaired. Many car owners, however, might be surprised to find that they actually don't own every part of their vehicle."

Yes, I was surprised to read this. It's not right, and it reeks of Orwellian predictions, none of which should be legitimate in our free society. We paid for the whole vehicle. We own the whole vehicle.

"Increasingly, automakers have utilized embedded software to take the place of mechanical functions. Automakers consider this code to be intellectual property protected by the 1996 Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA). Access to the software can only be given by permission. The embedded programming can control brakes, emissions, ignitions, transmissions and even windshield wipers."

This is wrong and needs to be corrected or we could all be held captive by the automobile industry.

"Vehicle owners cannot just have any mechanic (themselves included) make adjustments to the factory coding. You either have to take your car back to the dealer or have it serviced by an approved/authorized third-party repair shop."

I don't utilize dealer services, because of their high cost and spotty service. I use my local mechanic who should be able to service my entire vehicle, the vehicle I have paid hard earned money to buy.

"According to the Auto Care Association (ACA), the advocacy association for indie repair shops, this limitation hurts the free market. ACA's Aaron Lowe notes, "The manufacturers want to control where you get your car repaired. There are many ways they can make it available to independent shops, but then it's no longer an independent market."

Allowing a stranglehold on motorists is wrong. This needs to be addressed and corrected. This is the United States, not the Soviet Union.

"U.S. patent law protects consumers' right to repair their motor vehicle themselves or choose a trusted technician to perform the work for them. Cleaning, repairing and refurbishing parts or replacing worn or broken parts has always been considered permissible under the law. Congress passed the DMCA to provide IP protections for expressive works, such as movies or music – not enable original equipment manufacturers to design systems that prevent replacement of functional software and parts. While unattended, DMCA is being used to stifle competition in the vehicle repair industry. Congress and the U.S. Copyright Office must take immediate action to clarify that vehicle owners and authorized third parties can continue to access embedded software for purposes of repair and maintenance."

Please address this situation and rule in favor of consumers. To allow the automobile industry to wield this kind of power over the citizens of the United States is just heading down a slippery slope. Thank you.

Quoted remarks are from the National Motorists Association and [Autocareadvocacy.org](http://Autocareadvocacy.org)