

## Serge Bergeron

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**From:** "Serge Bergeron" <serge@bergeron.ca>  
**To:** <mintc@tc.gc.ca>  
**Cc:** <Lauzon.G@parl.gc.ca>; <media@greenparty.ca>; <Flaherty.J@parl.gc.ca>; <Harper.S@parl.gc.ca>  
**Sent:** March 24, 2008 2:27 PM  
**Attach:** Mary reply.pdf; letter-ecoauto.pdf; EcoAuto file to Cannon.pdf  
**Subject:** Vehicle importing and the EcoAuto Program

Dear Minister Cannon,

My name is Serge Bergeron and I am one of the Co-Founders of Cars Without Borders. This internet-based organization powered by Canadians-volunteers-voters exists for the sole purpose of Helping Consumers get fair pricing for car purchases. We are standing up for Consumer Rights and as far as we can see there is a lot of defending left to do. Our Web site continues to grow as it represents the sentiment of Canadian car buyers across the country. We have recently developed the French web site after a very successful appearance on the Quebec show JE on TVA on March 7, 2008. Our support continues to grow strongly and rapidly in all provinces.

I would like you Mr. Cannon and your colleagues to really start taking care of this whole fiasco that is going on with automobile importation in Canada. You know as well as everyone else that with the high value of the Canadian dollar prices in Canada had to be adjusted. Minister Flaherty was prompt in the fall to recommend to the Retailers Association to adjust their prices, as they would suffer serious losses. Canadian consumers are willing and able to go buy in the USA. We have seen quick and prompt adjustments in the retail business. We have not seen the same in the Car industry. We know that a strong dollar has many positive effects for Canada. It is not something that the government controls but something that we have to live with - high or low. Canada as you know is built on trade - on international trade and free trade. Free trade is important to all Canadians and the ability to import a car from the US or elsewhere in the world is as important for Canadians as it is important for governments to raise taxes.

We have however been restricted with regards to automobile trade. The car manufacturers have been very reluctant to lower prices to protect their high margins in Canada and have stepped up the battle to BLOCK the US-Canada border. We have never seen such a display of inaccurate information and unfair trade practices. The saddest part of all of this is the response by Transport Canada officials - the officers that report directly to your Ministry. Transport Canada appears to be accepting the manufacturer roadblocks - if this is not the case, they are certainly not showing the citizens any proof of the contrary.

Mr.Cannon, as you are very well aware of the whole sad situation that existed back in early December 07 with the Immobilizer issue. Your officials at Transport Canada faced with enormous public backlash changed the regulation and allowed the US made immobilizers to satisfy Canadian regulations. However since that time the situation has worsened. The self-compliant system that we have with the automobile companies is not working. Transport Canada is still asking for No-recall letters to satisfy the importation process even though ALL know that for most new vehicles there is no recall. The public can easily find this in the TC and the US Ministry of Transport database that is accessible. You are not without knowing that the Car Manufacturers are charging from \$300 to over \$1,000 for a letter that states there are no recalls when this is available for free on the official web sites. One company Honda USA is not giving any letter thus stopping all Honda imports from the USA. Mr. Cannon, evidently you know all of this. You also know that we all know this. The web site that Robert Lamb and myself started back in November exposes this to all Canadians and eventually you know that more and more Canadians will know all these nasty little secrets. Your officials will argue that the laws are there and cannot be easily changed and that due diligence is necessary before any changes can be done. There are many stakeholders etc. etc. But Mr. Cannon one can do a lot when you hold the office that you have. And Canadians are expecting you to use the power that you have to help Canadians trade and prosper.

This leads me into the purpose of this email; the EcoAuto rebate. We have written to your officials - the Assistant Deputy Minister, Mrs. Mary Komarynsky and are very dissatisfied with TC response. We are attaching the correspondence that we had with Transport officials. You will note that the Eco-Auto program was implemented correctly originally and subsequently someone decided that this rebate would not be payable for imported vehicles - or those not sold in Canada. Many of the vehicles that qualify for the rebates are made outside of

Canada like the Prius that is made in Japan. So the intent of the program which is to encourage environmental friendly cars has turned into another tool to BLOCK the US-Canada border. The government of Canada - apparently - by its policy - will not give the Eco-Auto rebate to vehicles not purchased from Canadian dealers. Why is this? Why would the government take such a stance especially, when the deals are so good south of the border? One can only assume that the automobile lobby has a much louder voice than the Canadian public. Would the government of Canada consider disallowing all USA expenses incurred by companies for income tax purposes? This decision is clearly aimed to block the border.

I ask Mr. Cannon, that you reconsider your department's decision to not allow the rebate for imported new cars. I am attaching the 2 previous emails:

- Serge Bergeron to Mary Komarynsky January 19, 2008 that explains the problem in greater detail.

- Mary Komarynsky replies February 1, 2008

I am also attaching a printout of 18 separate cases across Canada of automobiles that should qualify. We are accumulating these cases for our members as it is our only way, together and united that we can show you that we are there and that we are not going away on these issues.

Mr. Cannon this situation is entirely in your hands. This is something that must be fixed and there are no lengthy consultations and many stakeholders. There is a clear injustice and all the Canadians that shop in the US be it for a car, a TV or shoes, need to be treated fairly. Mr. Cannon, please tell your TC officials to fix this problem. You have the authority and we expect you to do the right thing.

I am available to discuss with your officials at your request.

Serge Bergeron

613 932 3341

Co-Founder CarsWithoutBorders.com

Standing up for consumers