

For nearly twenty years, as President of the Consumer Task Force For Automotive Issues, I've documented the dark side of the car business in America. Frankly, I've wondered how dealer and manufacturer practices at some dealerships could get worse.

But the dark side of the automobile business turned much darker the very day auto dealerships began sneaking BMA clauses into their contracts. The clauses instantly encouraged a lawless and reckless selling attitude in the auto industry.

Bad dealers, not surprisingly, overnight became worse dealers. Even some good dealerships began to push and exceed legal limits.

Now, It doesn't matter if the consumer is buying or leasing a vehicle. It doesn't matter whether you're paying cash or financing. It doesn't matter if you have a problem with a dealer or a problem with a manufacturer. If you're doing business with a dealership with a BMA clause, you're doing risky business.

That's why today, the Give Me Back Your Rights Campaign is announcing the following:

First, we're launching a "Call Before You Buy" initiative. "Call Before You Buy" encourages consumers to refuse to buy vehicles from sellers who have BMA clauses. Why would a consumer ever buy a car from someone who wants to take away their rights?

Our web site, [www.callbeforeyoubuy.com](http://www.callbeforeyoubuy.com), tells consumers the truth about BMA clauses at car dealerships, and shows consumers how to protect themselves from these clauses.

Second, our campaign is calling upon the NADA, the National Automobile Dealers Association to join our coalition, and join our efforts to stop the use of BMA clauses at auto dealerships. NADA represents virtually every dealership in the United States.

Nearly five years ago, the National Automobile Dealers Association itself stated that it does not support the use of BMA clauses in consumer contracts—including contracts at automobile dealerships. We think its time, five years later, that the National Automobile Association asks its dealers to honor their own resolution.

Our campaign today also asks that consumers consider moving their automobile loans from lenders with BMA clauses to lenders without BMA clauses. Many small banks and credit unions do not have BMA clauses. Why not frequent the good lenders?

Finally, we know that there are still some car dealers who do not require BMA clauses. Today we are therefore asking BMA-free car dealers to contact us. We will publish their names on our web site and encourage consumers to visit their businesses. Dealers can contact us at [will@stopbma.com](mailto:will@stopbma.com).

If you are in the market for a car, stay away from dealers who want to take away your rights. Call before you buy.