



GRIPPIN DONLAN PINKHAM

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
CONSULTANTS AND ADVISORS

DAVID C. GRIPPIN CPA CVA
RICHARD D. DONLAN CPA
KIMBERLY M. PINKHAM CPA RETIRED
LATA AGARWAL CPA

October 11, 2024

Trustees
Vermont Vehicle and Automotive Distributors Association
Dental Benefits Life and Disability Insurance Trust
PO Box 747
Montpelier, VT 05601

We have audited the financial statements of Vermont Vehicle and Automotive Distributors Association Dental Benefits Life and Disability Trust (the Plan), an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), for the twelve-month period ended December 31, 2023, and we will issue our report thereon dated October 11, 2024. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our letter to you dated June 19, 2024. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Significant Audit Matters

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the Plan are described in Note 2 to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during 2023. We noted no transactions entered into by the Plan during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimate affecting the financial statements was:

Management's estimate of the loss and loss adjustment expense reserves is based on claims reports processed subsequent to the close of the Plan's year. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the loss and loss adjustment expense reserves in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

Form 5500 Procedures

We are required to obtain and read a substantially complete draft of Form 5500 prior to dating our auditor's report. The purpose of this procedure is to identify any material inconsistencies between the draft Form 5500 and the Plan's financial statements. We identified no material inconsistencies in performing and completing our audit.

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Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. We are pleased to report no misstatements were noted during the audit.

Reportable Findings

For purposes of this letter, a reportable finding is a matter that includes one or more of the following: (1) noncompliance or suspected noncompliance with laws and regulations, (2) a finding that in our professional judgement is significant and relevant to you regarding your responsibility to oversee the financial reporting process, and (3) an indication of internal control deficiencies identified during the audit that have not been previously communicated to management by other parties and that we determined are sufficiently important to merit management's attention. We did not identify any reportable findings during the audit.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is a disagreement on a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated October 11, 2024.

Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the Plan's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

Other Audit Findings or Issues

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the Plan's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

Other Matters

With respect to the ERISA-required supplemental schedules accompanying the financial statements, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content, and methods of preparing the information to determine that the information complies with the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the ERISA-required supplemental schedules to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

This information is intended solely for the use of Trustees and management of the Plan and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Grippin". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Grippin, Donlan & Pinkham, PLC



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October 11, 2024

Trustees
Vermont Vehicle and Automotive Distributors Association
Dental Benefits Life and Disability Insurance Trust
PO Box 747
Montpelier, VT 05601

In planning and performing our audits of the financial statements of Vermont Vehicle and Automotive Distributors Association Dental Benefits Life and Disability Insurance Trust (the "Plan") as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we considered the Plan's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies, and, therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. However, as discussed below, we identified certain deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be a significant deficiency.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Plan's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses.

A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance. We consider the following deficiencies in the Plan's internal control to be significant deficiencies:

- Plan management is not trained or otherwise qualified to prepare and are unable to prepare financial statements and related disclosures for the Plan in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The Plan relies on its auditors to perform these functions for the year-end financial statements, under the oversight of Plan management.

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of management, Trustees, and others within the Plan, and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

We are happy to discuss the details of this letter with you at any time.

Very truly yours,

Grippin, Donlan & Pinkham, PLC

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