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House of Representatives
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MEMORANDUM

Date: August 4, 2011
To: All House Members
From: Representative Tony Deluca

Subject: Co-sponsorship of Legislation: *The Vehicle Towing and Towing Storage Facility Standard Act*

In the near future, I will be introducing a revised Vehicle Towing and Towing Storage Facility Standards Act. This bill is similar to HB 509 introduced earlier this session; however my updated version mirrors the more comprehensive Texas law. In hopes of eliminating the occurrence of predatory towing, Texas requires all towing companies and storage facilities to abide by strict regulations. Consumers continue to cry out for legislation to rectify and regulate the towing industry, and I drafted this version to provide even stronger protection for our constituents.

Specifically, my legislation will require tow truck operators to:

1. Have a valid permit, license, and proof of insurance before performing towing or booting.
2. Complete a criminal history background check
3. Post fee schedules at the storage facility and on a state-operated website
4. Display on each towing ticket: the full company name; publicly listed telephone number; registration number; full printed name of operator; location from which the vehicle has been towed as well as the location to which it has been towed; and justification for the tow.
5. Comply with drug testing regulations; both unannounced and annually scheduled.
6. Continue education as set forth by the Department of Transportation that alerts and informs operators of the state's tow truck rules.

This bill also assesses violations for damages with appropriate fees, establishes a Towing and Storage Advisory Board, and allows vehicle owners the right to request a hearing if they believe the vehicle was removed without proper justification.

We have all heard countless retellings, as many of our constituents have encountered difficulties when their vehicle was towed. I believe my legislation will solve many of these problems. If you would like to cosponsor this important legislation, please contact Stacia R. Longenecker at 717-787-4437 or via email at slongene@pahouse.net.

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