

GOOD DAY, MY NAME IS THOMAS MESSNER. I AM A MEMBER OF THE WESTMORELAND COUNTY STATE INSPECTION ADVISORY BOARD. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE COMMITTEE FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT OUR COMMENTS TODAY ON HOUSE BILL 562 Printers # 589

INITIALLY, I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT PENNSYLVANIA HAS HAD A LONG STANDING POLICY TO INSURE THE SAFETY OF THE MOTOR VEHICLES OPERATED IN PENNSYLVANIA. THE SEMI ANNUAL SAFETY INSPECTIONS REQUIRED BY THE PRESENT PROVISIONS OF THE VEHICLE CODE WERE IMPLEMENTED IN FURTHERANCE OF THIS POLICY WITH THE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE OF PROTECTING THE SAFETY OF THE CITIZENS OF PENNSYLVANIA AND THEIR PROPERTY. PENNSYLVANIA HAS ACHIEVED A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED REPUTATION FOR THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ITS VEHICLE SAFETY INSPECTION PROGRAM. THE PROVISIONS OF HOUSE BILL 562 WOULD REQUIRE THAT ONLY ONE VEHICLE SAFETY INSPECTION BE REQUIRED PER YEAR. I BELIEVE THAT THE LESSENING OF VEHICLE SAFETY INSPECTIONS WILL NECESSARILY RESULT IN AN INCREASE IN DANGEROUS VEHICLES ON PENNSYLVANIA HIGHWAYS AND RESULT IN AN INCREASE IN VEHICLE RELATED PERSONAL INJURIES AND PROPERTY DAMAGE. FOR THESE REASONS I STRENUOUSLY OPPOSE THE PROVISIONS OF HOUSE BILL 562 WHICH ELIMINATE SEMI ANNUAL SAFETY INSPECTIONS AND REQUIRE ONLY AN ANNUAL SAFETY INSPECTION. I BELIEVE THAT THE LEGISLATURE IS COMPELLED TO GIVE PARAMOUNT CONSIDERATION TO THE PROTECTION OF THE PEOPLE OF THIS COMMONWEALTH.

THERE HAVE BEEN COMMENTS THAT THE PUBLIC IS BEING RIPPED OFF WITH TWO STATE INSPECTIONS A YEAR. IN MY OPINION, THE PUBLIC WILL HAVE MORE EXPENSIVE REPAIRS IN ORDER TO HAVE THEIR CARS INSPECTED IF THERE IS A YEAR BETWEEN SAFETY INSPECTIONS. THERE WILL BE MORE DAMAGE DONE AND THE RESULT WILL BE HIGHER REPAIR BILLS TO THE CUSTOMER, ESPECIALLY WITH BRAKE PROBLEMS.

10-25

THERE ARE CLAIMS THAT NEW CARS DO NOT NEED SEMI ANNUAL SAFETY INSPECTIONS, BUT I FEEL THAT THIS IS ONE WAY THAT THE MANUFACTURER GETS A FEEDBACK ON PROBLEMS DISCOVERED IN THE FIELD, THUS THEY HAVE RECALLS TO CORRECT THESE PROBLEMS BEFORE SERIOUS DAMAGE IS DONE. DUE TO THE COST OF NEW CARS THE BUYING PUBLIC IS KEEPING THEIR AUTOS LONGER--THIS IS ANOTHER IMPORTANT REASON THAT THE SEMI ANNUAL SAFETY INSPECTION SHOULD BE KEPT.

ALSO THOMAS LARSEN STATED THAT OBA FOUND THAT 80% OF CAUSAL FACTORS IN ALL MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS IN 1978 IN PENNSYLVANIA WERE CLASSIFIED AS HUMAN FACTORS. 55 MILES PER HOUR SPEED HAS PREVENTED MANY ACCIDENTS, AND I FEEL THAT SEMI ANNUAL INSPECTIONS HAS ALSO BEEN A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR IN KEEPING THE AUTOS SAFER TO DRIVE.

AGAIN, THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPEAR HERE TODAY AND PRESENT MY COMMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE WESTMORELAND COUNTY SAFETY ADVISORY BOARD. I WILL BE WILLING TO TRY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE MAY HAVE.