



Property Casualty Insurers
Association of America

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Jeffrey Junkas
Assistant Vice President, State Government Relations

April 25, 2016

The Honorable Ron Maag
Chairman, House State Government Committee
77 S. High St., 13th Flr.
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: SUPPORT HB 341, Towing Reform Legislation, as Proposed to be Amended

Dear Chairman Maag:

The Property Casualty Insurers Association of America (PCI) is a trade association representing nearly 1,000 property and casualty insurance companies that together write 45 percent of the auto insurance in Ohio. PCI respectfully submits the following comments in support of House Bill 341, legislation regarding towing reforms, as proposed to be amended concerning the 'quick clear' board.

While a vast majority of the towing industry operates fairly, there continue to be problems in cities across the nation with rogue operators who charge excessive, unexplained fees; limit or refuse access to vehicles; and provide little to no customer service. This is so much a problem that Congress, via the October 1, 2015 enactment of the "FAST Act" (Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act), included an amendment to broaden the authority of state and local authorities to regulate towing operations performed without the prior consent of the owner (which is currently limited by the federal motor carrier law). Additionally, FAST Act sponsor's clarified for the record that their intent was that the amendment would apply to all kinds of tows, including accident scene tows.

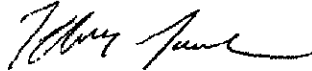
HB 341, as proposed to be amended to create a "Towing and Quick Clear Board," (TQCB) would help further advance existing Ohio consumer protections related to towing by providing the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) more authority to help settle disputed bills, and get consumers their cars back faster at reasonable prices. Not only would the PUCO be able to sanction a rogue tower, but insurers too would face penalties for serial disputes that are found to be without merit.

Additionally, the TQCB would have balanced representation from the towing, public safety, transportation and insurance industry. Other states are grappling with these same issues and are turning to similar solutions to examine at all aspects of the process and find ways to help protect consumers.

Quite simply, it's about fairness. To protect and benefit all Ohioans, PCI's urges you and your colleagues to vote "yes" on HB 341, as amended.

Thank you for your consideration of our perspective. Please contact me directly at 847-553-3678 or via email at jeffrey.junkas@pciaa.net or our Ohio counsel, Stephen Buehrer at 614-365-4107 or via email at buehrer@carpenterlipps.com with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey Junkas", written in a cursive style.

Jeffrey Junkas

cc: Steve Buehrer, PCI counsel
Lt. Gov./Director Mary Taylor, Dept., of Insurance
Rep. Martin Sweeney
Rep. Ron Young
Members, House State Government Committee