

# ROBERT P. MECKLENBORG

ATTORNEY AT LAW  
6059 BRIDGETOWN ROAD  
SUITE 102  
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45248

Telephone (513) 460-1780

Email - rpmeck@mecklaw.co

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**RE: TRAO Support of Sub. H.B. 341**

Honorable Chair, Ranking Member and Members of the Senate Transportation, Commerce and Labor Committee :

Thank-you for the opportunity to express my support for Sub H.B 341. TRAO and Terry Fleming recently asked me to assist with some of the legal issues involved with respect to this Bill and it has been my distinct pleasure to represent the approximate 400 strong members located throughout the State of Ohio.

Since this Committee has already reviewed the text of the Bill, I simply want to state that the Bill successfully addresses what have proven to be unduly burdensome provisions under existing law. Just by way of brief and not exhaustive example – The salvage title process has been clarified and simplified. The new notice requirements recognize and respect the day to day realities of this type of business. The Bill in short brings more predictability to the entire process.

But just importantly, this Bill affords members on both sides of the aisle the opportunity to address the real needs and concerns of this group of small business employers throughout the State of Ohio. These hard-working men and women perform an important service which promotes the free flow of travel and trade day after day often under severe and dangerous conditions . They perform these regulated and needed services only after considerable training and capital outlay. This Bill gives you the opportunity to go beyond providing the traditional lip service to our small businesses by improving the regulatory climate in which they operate.

With respect to amendments TRAO originally proposed five (5) such amendments and it is my understanding that this Committee will consider four (4) of those proposed amendments. TRAO supports the adoption of these four (4) simple amendments. In brief summary:

1. AM2713 - This amendment removes a late inserted provision in the House Bill and removes a notification requirement with respect to the ability to file a civil action. TRAO

supports this amendment because the current language promoted unneeded litigation against their segment of the small business community.

2. AM2714 - This amendment in essence is a clean-up of a provision requiring a written contract between the property owner and towing service. TRAO has no problem with this, but given the fact that many owners are not local, this amendment properly expands the definition of the contracting authority.

3. AM2715 - The requirement in the Bill for mobile credit card service is dependent on available cell phone service, which however, is not always available to some towers, particularly those in more rural areas. This amendment addresses that problem.

4. AM2716 - The Bill prohibits compensation for authority to tow vehicles. This amendment properly limits this prohibition to monetary compensation.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to address this committee and I am of course, happy to answer any questions that you might have.

Yours Truly,

Robert P. Mecklenborg, Esq.

RPM/krm