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RE: Amended H.B. 172

Dear Chairman McColley, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Antonio and Members of the Transportation Committee:

On behalf of the Towing and Recovery Association of Ohio (TRAO), I would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak as a proponent of this much needed Bill. TRAO is the largest and oldest towing association in the State of Ohio. Its hardworking members are over 200 strong and come from every area of the State. They do much to promote the free flow of transportation and commerce while also doing their part to insure the safety of each of the roadways and communities throughout the State. TRAO is an affiliate of the National Association TRAA.

You will have heard from some of the larger Ohio Towers with respect to the significant additional cost and excessive use of personnel time directly resulting from the three (3) certified mail notices for private tows. We also ask that you consider some additional factors :

- Outsourcing this requirement to third party administrators has proven to be a very expensive process severely cutting into the service charge for the private tow set by PUCO.
- There is no benefit to the owner or lien holder resulting from the three (3) notice requirement since the vast majority of interested parties who are going to retrieve the vehicle do so before the first notice is even sent. Hence the Tower lot becomes a parking lot for vehicles of little or no worth which will never be retrieved.
- The unduly burdensome requirement of three (3) certified letters has also had a serious effect on many of the smaller towers and the local businesses in their communities.
- Keep in mind that there is no legitimate business or fairness reason for the three (3) certified letter requirement. Law enforcement tows, rather than private tows at issue in this bill, require only one (1) certified letter. Further,

there is no other business or legal issue in the entire Ohio Revised Code that is so adversely affected by such a cumbersome and costly process.

If any member has any questions or concerns, I will be happy to answer them.

Yours Truly,

Robert P. Mecklenborg, Esq.
On Behalf of TRAO