



Capital Towing & Recovery
Proponent Testimony on HB 172
Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee
~~Jack Irvin, Sr. Director, State and National Policy~~
October 23, 2019

Chairman McColley, Ranking Member Antonio, members of the Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present proponent testimony on HB 172.

My name is Brandon Harris, I own and operate a towing company here in Columbus, Ohio. I started my business in 2007 with one truck and a dream. Years later my team and I have grown our operation to over 45 pieces of equipment and close to 50 employees. Our company impounds over 6000 vehicles per year of which an average of 20% will go unclaimed. With that being said, any legislative changes affecting the unclaimed process could have a serious impact to our business.

Currently by law, we are required to send up to three certified letters to each interested party listed on the Ohio BMV record search. When a certified letter is sent, the post office will attempt to deliver that letter up to three times until accepted, refused or finally unclaimed. So, by sending three letters total, that's up to nine attempts to notify one person. This process could take up to 30 days from the first letter sent. Taking this into consideration, it could take over 90 days for us to receive the third and final certified letter back. At which point we are required to wait an additional 60 days to claim the vehicle from the final letter being returned. In total over five months to process a vehicle for disposal. I don't think it's fair that a towing company should be forced to hold a vehicle with no payment for over five months.

I am in full support of HB 172 as proposed as this would reduce our processing time by up to 90 days. This would allow us to recoup our cost quicker and reduce the size of our impound lot capacity.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 172. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.