

Chairman and Members of the Transportation and Public Safety Committee:

I cannot be present today because I am providing remote instruction to my college students.

Thank you for allowing me to submit input on H. B. No. 501 - Clarify slow-moving vehicle law/animal-drawn vehicle lighting. I am Jeremy Fryman and a friend to my Old Order Amish neighbors. We have discussed House Bill 501 and understand that they have concerns.

The Amish have a history going back over 500 years to the Protestant Reformation. They were persecuted throughout Europe for over one hundred years before many of them emigrated from Europe to what is now Pennsylvania for the religious freedoms offered by William Penn's Colony. The beliefs, traditions and culture of the Amish have not been as progressive as the non-Amish. The Amish history and shunning of modern conveniences and methods by the Amish were duly noted in the US Supreme Court Case of Yoder v. Wisconsin.

One concern in particular pertains to the vehicles themselves. These come in number of sizes and shapes. However, most laypersons think solely of buggies when the discussion of Amish transportation comes up. But, there are a number of farm implements and buggy-like carts that are may be on the road. On some of these, lighting would be difficult to attach and is likely to be damaged when the implement is used.

I am sure some Amish will explain their religious concern about "showy" electric lighting and will let them do that as they explain that better than I. The Amish have researched how some other Amish Communities around the country mark their animal powered vehicles that the local non-Amish report are quite effective and less restrictive than the current proposed bill.

We extend to you an offer for you to send a representative group to meet with us to discuss our concerns about the varying vehicle types, sizes and builds and offer some other options beyond what is proposed in the bill. This offer allows those interested to physically see our challenges, concerns and proposed alternatives.

Thank you for your time.