Nov. 16, 2020

We the Amish Churches of Hardin Co., Oh, have originated from our forefathers, who came to this country before the Declaration of Independence for the sake of religious freedom which is granted by the Constitution of the United State of America.

We realize that by this time there are many different sects that go by the name of Amish, some more progressive and liberal and others more conservative. Our goal is to uphold and maintain the Biblical principals of Faith, which our forefathers believed, to be a separate people as stated in the Bible in Romans 12<sup>th</sup> chapter: Be yea not conformed to this world, but transformed by the renewing of your mind that ye may prove what is good and acceptable and the perfect will of God. Therefore we shun the use of modern technology and the use of battery operated devices, as well as battery powered lights, except for the little flashlight that is carried in the pocket.

Our goal is to live plain and simple and God fearing and law abiding, so far that it doesn't interfere with the free exercise of religion. We aim to live in peace among our fellow citizens and maintain our lifestyle. We humble plea for a variance from your proposed requirement of battery operated blinking light and bright color triangle. We feel we can offer the use of very effective flashing device of reflective material. When the law went in effect for SMV emblem on Apr 1<sup>st</sup>, 1966, an alternative device was also allowed of reflective material of 72 square inches, to honor our religious beliefs. (Chapter 119, section 4513.11) There are also other Amish Communities in the State of Ohio that use this device.

We feel the greatest cause of accidents is the use and influence of drugs and alcohol and the cell phone used while driving.

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