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TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

TWENTY-FOURTH STATE LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2008

Wednesday, February 27, 2008
2:00 p.m.

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 509, HD2 – RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION.

TO THE HONORABLE ROBERT N. HERKES, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE:

The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department") appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 509, HD2, Relating to Transportation. My name is Stephen Levins, and I am the Executive Director of the Department's Office of Consumer Protection.

House Bill No. 509, HD2 seeks to clarify the provision of the towing law relating to unhooking fees. Currently, such fees are prohibited only if the owner of a vehicle targeted for towing appears on the scene before the vehicle has been moved. Although the law was just amended last year, further clarification may be necessary since the

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Office of Consumer Protection has recently learned of at least one instance in which a tow company apparently charged a consumer a fee merely because the "towed vehicle" was moved a few feet before the owner arrived on the scene and interacted with the tow truck driver. To rectify this situation, House Bill No. 509, HD2 makes it clear that as long as the vehicle's owner arrives on the scene before the vehicle is towed away; no unhooking fee should be charged.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 509, HD2. I will be happy to answer any questions that the members of the Committee may have.