



Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association, Inc.

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November 3, 2015

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
U.S. House of Representatives
1707 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Van Hollen:

The purpose of this letter is to convey our support for your amendment (#42) to H.R. 3763, the *Surface Transportation Reauthorization and Reform (STRR) Act of 2015*.

The Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association (OOIDA) is the largest trade association representing small-business trucking professionals and professional truck drivers. OOIDA has more than 155,000 members nationwide

Your amendment expands the authority of states to regulate tows performed without the prior consent of an owner or operator of a motor vehicle, commonly referred to as a nonconsensual or third-party tow. Generally, this includes tows that are dispatched by a law enforcement agency or public entity within a state to clear the scene of an accident or remove a vehicle that is otherwise obstructing a roadway. These are situations where there is no opportunity for motorists to negotiate services or compare prices among multiple towing operators, so it is critical that states have the ability to enact and enforce important consumer protections.

Truck drivers are commonly subjected to towing invoices that are blatantly inflated by tens of thousands of dollars and there is virtually no effective or efficient recourse. The impact this has on small-business truckers can be financially devastating and frequently puts them out of business. Many states continue to express interest in addressing issues like this but often times they are unable to because of the existing statutory limitation. Your amendment does not mandate that states regulate the towing industry but rather gives them the authority to consider new laws and regulations based on their unique needs.

Again, OOIDA supports Amendment #42 to the STRR Act and would like to thank you for your work on this important issue. Please contact me directly or Laura O'Neill-Kaumo, Director of Government Affairs, at (202) 347-2007 or laura_oneill-kaumo@oida.com should you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd Spencer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial "T".

Todd Spencer
Executive Vice President
OOIDA

Cc: Chairman Bill Shuster
Ranking Member Peter DeFazio
Chairman Sam Graves
Ranking Member Eleanor Holmes Norton