

Iron Horse Towing Inc.

6593 Hwy 10 W
Missoula, MT 59808
(406) 721-7538
1-866-869-2446

January 25, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a towing company owner in Missoula and as this area's representative in the MTTA I feel it is important that the committee understand how important this lien law will be for all of us. All of the towers in my region face the same problems that stem from lawful impounding of vehicles.

So many times a vehicle is impounded at the direction of a law enforcement agency and the customer arrives at my business and wants only their belongings. The vehicle itself is not worth the towing and storage fees, but the contents do have value. These items could be anything from televisions, computers, to any number of personal effects. As a small businessman, I cannot afford to not get paid for the services I provide. I understand that I have to take the good with the bad when it comes to these vehicles. It is, however, not unrealistic to hold these valuable items against the tow bill when there is a chance that the owner will pay to get them back. In 2006, our redemption rate for vehicles towed at the request of law enforcement was just over 50%. That means for every two cars I tow in, I'm only going to get paid for one of them. To make matters worse, now I have to dispose of it as well.

The lien law would not be a cure-all for this situation. It would allow us an opportunity to recoup some of our expenses when doing these tows. As a tow truck operator, I am not going to deprive a family of food, identification, or child safety items. I do not want a person's personal items, and I am not in the pawn shop business. I am not cold and heartless, but when the vehicle owner wants their Nintendo system or their hundreds of dollars worth of CDs and doesn't want to pay the bill, I take exception to that. As it stands now, I have to give those things to them and watch them leave their \$200 Ford Tempo in my lot.

Another critical point to consider in this matter is that as approved towers for the various law-enforcement divisions, we are acting on their behalf and as their agent. We would not have these issues if nobody went to jail or got into accidents. It would seem logical that in return, the law would allow us every opportunity to get paid for these valuable services that we provide, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, in all conditions. This lien law would give us one more chance to try to collect on services that have been provided at the law's request.

I would like to thank the committee for their consideration in something that could really make a difference. I have been in towing for 16 years and plan to continue for many more. With your help in this matter, it will give all of us one more tool to try to make ends meet in what is a very expensive business to operate.

Sincerely,



Scott Wolff, Owner
Iron Horse Towing, Inc.

EXHIBIT 3
1/26/07
397