

# MINNESOTA

Professional Towing Association



May 4, 2023

Dear Transportation Conference Committee Members:

I write to you as Executive Director of the Minnesota Professional Towing Association (MPTA), which is an association of family-owned businesses located around the State of Minnesota who run towing operations and often work closely with law enforcement and county authorities. The MPTA strongly supports the towing provision contained in Article 8, Section 32 of the Senate Transportation Omnibus Bill, which is a common-sense measure that helps towing operators perform their jobs without technically violating current law due to an anomaly in the statutes.

The provision contained in the Senate Transportation Bill was authored by Sen. Jasinski (SF 1065) and was previously heard last biennium in the House Transportation Committee as a bill introduced by Rep. Dave Baker.

There are local and seasonal weight restrictions that apply to heavy vehicles on certain roads, but certain exemptions exist for particular types of vehicles including garbage haulers, utility trucks, school buses, milk trucks, etc. The problem with the current law is that if any of those presently exempted vehicles were to break down, land in a ditch or crash into a body of water, there is no way for a towing operator to legally remove the vehicle because the towing vehicles themselves are not presently exempted from the weight restrictions.


All this provision does is make clear that towing operators are able to recover another vehicle that is inoperable on a public roadway, has entered a public body of water, or is itself exempted from local or seasonal weight restrictions. The exemption provided in this provision only applies while the towers are traveling to or from the recovery scene or actually towing the vehicle.

The MPTA worked closely with the Department of Transportation on this bill and we incorporated their suggested language concerning a cap on the overall weight that would be exempted. The language concerning the cap came directly from MNDOT.

We also worked closely with the Minnesota Association of Townships and the Association of Minnesota Counties to make them aware of our proposal and they are fine with this provision. They understand why this legislation is needed to fix the anomaly in the current statute.

We would appreciate your support of Sen. Jasinski's provision contained in the Senate Transportation Omnibus Bill.

Very truly yours,

  
Lance Klatt  
Executive Director  
Minnesota Professional Towing Association

2886 Middle Street  
Little Canada, MN 55117

651-487-2231  
Fax 651-487-2447