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im in favor of Cheri Becas

- Until Recently, in this State, as in every other state, it was legal to operate a wrecker or Flat Bed to move cars with a commercial Registration. However, with the last Amendment to Motor Vehicle Law 14-66, it has made it illegal unless you have a Dealers or Repair licence. You can't operate a transport company solely. You Now need "Wrecker Plates" to transport automobiles, And Wrecker Plates are only available to Lic Repair Shops or Lic Dealerships.

- to operate a Transport Company, You Need A truck with the Proper licencing, Proper Insurance as Dictated By the State, You are Required By Federal Motor Carrier Regulations to Have your vehicle inspected yearly, Drivers to Be Drug Screened Randomly, And Have Bi Annual Physicals. Also maintain extensive paper work, all this monitored By the State and Federal Government,

- But Now, You must have All These, Plus obtain a licence to Repair or Sell cars. Which means you must incur Huge expense of obtaining a Suitable Facility, Rent or Buy, Hold additional Licencing, Bonding and insurance, along with an electric Bill, water Bill, taxes and additional equipment. all associated with a repair shop or Dealership even though you have no interest in Selling or Repairing Cars!

- this would Be like making a person who wants to open a Lawn Care Business get an arborist licence, and a chain saw, and a wood chipper, and A bucket truck, even though they Dont cut trees

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- Does this sound like something that Promotes interest in drawing New businesses to the state.?

Sever People Have made the claim that these industries are ~~so~~ closely related and that Justifies the combining of the 2 I disagree, How much opposition would you get if we mandate that All Dealers and Repair Shops, (Even Pre Existing) Must Now go get a tow truck and pay all those additional costs! Several of these companies Rely on Independant operators to transport their Customers Vehicles.

Others Have made the statements, that this is about Safety. Well ~~say~~ the fact that it is illegal to Put a 3000lb Toyota on a Flat Bed, yet it is Perfectly legal to Put a 10,000lb Backhoe or Fork lift or Piece of Machinery on the Same truck, Contradicts that, a SAFE secure load is a safe secure load Regardless of Subject Matter.

I've Also Been told that it will get Rid of the "Gypsy" towers who dont have the Proper Licenses, or insurance or are running unsafe equipment. Well those People Are already Breaking the law and this New law ~~doesn't~~ phase them either.

I've also Been told it would stop Price gouging and Protect the Public. Well, By making it Harder to start a towing Business, it lowers the supply of available towers, on an ever increasing motoring public, and Decreasig Suply and increasing Demand Doesn't Help ~~The Public~~ usually Keep Prices Down

I have been working in the towing industry for many years  
~~I Have a Class~~ I have owned my own Car Carrier for 16 yrs.  
 I have a Class A CDL, Insurance that exceeds the State Requirements.  
 I also Have taken Towing and Recovery Classes Mandated By  
 the State Police For Accident scene work and Posses both  
 Light and Heavy Duty Recovery Licences. All done with  
 the intension of Opening a towing Business.

2 yrs ago I bought a New Flat Bed and attempted  
 to start this, But I found out that though I was  
 almost to Home Base, the State Had Not only moved  
 Home Base, But they also Changed the Sport on me.

<sup>Sub</sup> \* The Other aspect of this Charge that disturbs me is it takes  
 away a the ability of a person to use use of a legal vehicle.  
 I have a large Antique Car Collection, and I am a member  
 of Several Car Clubs. I go to car shows all over the Country  
 and I The way this is written I can't even move a car for  
 a friend or Family member. My Wifes Suburban is Soley in  
 her name, and If it Breakes Down, I cant tow it Home.  
 If my mothers car breakes, same thing.

What's Next. I can't mow my neighbors lawn, Because  
 I Dont Have a Lic lawn Care business, with the  
 arborist licence and Bucket truck.

## **Information for consideration on amendment to Connecticut Statute Section 14-66**

For years in the state of Connecticut, as in all other states, it was acceptable for individuals to operate wreckers and flatbeds for both personal and business use with commercial registration. The acceptance of Public Act 10-110 eliminated this. Now for business or individual to operate these vehicles it is required to be registered with wrecker plates.

In the state of Connecticut wrecker plates can only be issued to a repair business or licensed dealership. These industries are closely related, however, are distinctly different. Operating a transport/towing company does not require the repair or sale of vehicles. Attached is information to explain how the new requirements under Statute Section 14-66 have made it impossible to open or operate a towing / transport business in the state of Connecticut.

An amendment to Statute Section 14-66 is necessary to allow individuals to operate towing/transport businesses without the added expenses required as it is currently written. Today's economy is still struggling; individuals that want to open and operate businesses in the state of Connecticut need help and encouragement. Allowing individuals to continue to operate and open new businesses in the towing /transport industry (taxable business) will supply jobs and bring revenue to the state.

## Information for consideration on amendment to Connecticut Statute Section 14-66

All these laws have now ELIMINATED an individual's RIGHT and ABILITY to open or operate a Towing / Transport Business in the State. An entire industry that has the potential to bring revenue to the State is being monopolized because a small group of established towing businesses have lobbied to get laws to lock out any competition and make it exponentially harder to open a new business (if not impossible). The requirement of a repair license or dealer license adds increased costs in facilities, special insurances, bonding, increased costs of rent and zoning approvals. To operate a transport company you need an administrative office address and a place to park a truck. A repair/dealer company adds thousands of dollars of overhead each month.

1. There is a distinct difference between the towing industry and auto repair and dealer.
  - a. Auto repair, Auto sales and Vehicle Towing are different industries. While all are related to autos, they are distinctly different. If someone wants to open a lawn cutting business, do they need an arborist license though they have no intention of cutting trees?
  - b. The industries should be separated. If an individual is required to have a repair license to tow, it will add unnecessary overhead for an unrelated license.
  - c. A person is not required to have a dealer's license to operate a repair facility.
  - d. A transport/towing business has no need to repair or sell autos.
2. Wrecker registration vs. Commercial
  - a. Wrecker registration in Connecticut can be used only for the transportation of a motor vehicle.
  - b. Wrecker registration was designed to allow for non-consensual towing such as a police tow, accident clean-up, etc...
  - c. Commercial registration, when used on a flatbed carrier, can be used for the transport of anything: equipment, tools, etc...including motor vehicles. This allows for many more opportunities of work.
  - d. A Wrecker, by design, serves ONLY to move motor vehicles. A Flatbed can be safely used for transporting an almost unlimited number of items.
  - e. Making a requirement to have a wrecker registration on a Flatbed, cuts down the varied type of work available. Because towing is taxable, this cuts down on revenue to the State.
  - f. Both require
    - i. Proper licensing
    - ii. Proper registration
    - iii. Proper commercial insurance
    - iv. Vehicle that has been safety inspected annually
3. Transporting a vehicle for an individual and private company

- a. Independent haulers with commercial registration have been transporting vehicles for individuals and private companies for years. If an independent is without adequate insurance, registration, safe equipment or safety procedures; the law is already being broken. New laws need to encourage new business, not punish people that are doing nothing wrong.
- b. What is the difference between an individual transporting one (1) vehicle on a flatbed and a tractor trailer transporting six (6) vehicles which is not registered as or eligible for wrecker plates or a moving company that adds a vehicle to a load of furniture when people are moving?

The industries of repair, sales and transportation are all in the automotive field, but repairing or selling have very little to do with transporting.

4. What is meant by the term "Direct towing to the public"?
  - a. Some sections of the current law reference this term, and one proposal states, an individual can "tow for hire ,provided they do not offer direct towing to the public" If a company was in the auto transport business, who would they be offering their services too? This contradicts the whole point of having a licensed towing? Transport business

## Personal Use

By altering the language regarding "For Compensation", it does not allow for personal use of the vehicle.

- a. The operator is licensed
- b. has proper insurance
- c. has proper registration

How can we be told that though we pay all the fees and have been able to do this for years that now we can't move vehicles?

If an individual's spouse's vehicle is solely in their name, by the letter of the law, that person could no longer move it on their own truck. The same applies for their mother, father, friends, etc... If someone decides to do a favor and move a person's car for free, whose business is it of the State? This would not be allowed in any other industry.

If an individual wanted to mow a neighbor's lawn but doesn't have a landscaping business, they can't do it? If a friend is remodeling their home, a person can't help them unless he/she has a licensed contracting business? If an individual were to plow their grandmother's driveway, do they need to be a licensed plow company?

