

Cheap Auto Rental llc
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re; HB 5292

My name is Lewis Schatten and I own and operate Cheap Auto Rental, a small independent car rental company serving Connecticut from six locations with fifteen Employees. I do not support HB5292, a bill that would have the state return to License Plate stickers. When we did have these stickers, they resulted in license plate thefts and mutilations on a grand scale. The sheer logistics of getting the appropriate stickers on the right cars in a timely fashion was daunting even for a small operator such as myself with only a few hundred vehicles which are in almost constant motion. Imagine what it would be like for a larger rental or leasing company with thousands of vehicles, some of which are traveling one way out of state, never to return. Likewise, DMV didn't seem to have a grand time managing the stickers. As a licensed used car dealer, I remember what a headache it was keeping track of these stickers and sending the extra ones back.

From a technological stand-point, this seems like an idea that is an anachronism. The DMV website offers instant look-up of registration plate expirations even to private citizens. Every police car has a lap top in it which can run plates instantly. Digital plate readers, a controversial curiosity only a couple of years ago, are now commonplace. Even private repossession companies have access to this technology, and I think that every police car will be so equipped within the next few years. Finally anyone with minor league computer skills and access to a mid-range color printer/scanner and the appropriate decal paper can clone, cut, and paste one legitimate sticker into hundreds of perfect copies in minutes. I respectfully think that the time for plate stickers has come and gone.

Please call me with any questions.