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Testimony on AB 455 before the Assembly Committee on Transportation, October 28, 2015

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for holding this hearing on AB 455.

This bill will allow owners of vehicles manufactured before 1985 the option to display the period correct plates that were issued by the Wisconsin DOT during the model year of the vehicle. The period correct plates will be registered with the DOT and will then be able to be displayed at all times. 38 states already allow some form of period correct plates on vehicles in certain circumstances.

Current law allows period correct plates to be used by pre-1979 cars but only when they are traveling to a car show or parade. This bill keeps that provision in place for those who may not want to use period correct plates all the time, but extends the date range to 1985 for consistency. 1985 was chosen as the cutoff date because that was the last year of the yellow and black plate design. Plates issued in 1986 and after look similar to the standard plates issued today. The change in year was the only alteration to that provision. An owner who wishes only to drive to car shows and parades with historical plates may continue to do so without change.

The plates would need to be originals issued by the state and not reproductions, but refurbishment would be allowed. DOT would check the plates to make sure that the number was not already in use or reserved. The vehicle owner would need to possess and display both matching period correct plates, and would have to also keep the collector or hobbyist plate issued by DOT inside the vehicle.

Thank you again for holding this hearing on AB 455.