



JOHN MURTHA

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 29th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

January 13, 2016

Dear Chairman Swearingen and Committee Members,

Thank you for holding a public hearing and allowing me to speak on Assembly Bill 616.

This bill brings some much-needed clarity to a part of our state statutes. Currently, people who have a classic semi-truck registered with a collector plate should be allowed to haul a trailer behind them - think of a classic semi heading to a truck show. However, the way the statute is worded has created some unnecessary ambiguity and confusion.

This issue was brought to my attention by a truck hobbyist who was frustrated because he and his fellow hobbyists were concerned about whether or not they could take their classic semis to and from truck shows. Such trucks cannot carry material weighing more than 500 pounds. However, it was never clear if the weight of a trailer counted against that 500 pound weight limit.

Through working with the State Patrol, the Department of Transportation, and the Division of Motor Vehicles, this bill cleans up statute in order to clarify the original intent. The bill makes it clear that the weight of a trailer drawn by a classic truck does not count against the 500 pound weight limit. State Patrol and the Division of Motor Vehicles has said to me and my office that this was precisely the intent of current statute, but the way it was written led to confusion.

It's important to emphasize that this bill does not allow hobbyists to use their vehicles for commercial activities. It's simply to clean up wording to protect people engaging in their hobby.

Thank you again for allowing me to testify.

Sincerely,

John Murtha