

Senator Baldacci, Representative Matlack, honored members of the State & Local Government Committee,

My name is Tyler Thibeault, I work for Mid Coast Truck Repair & Towing located in Durham, Maine. Our town does not have its own Police coverage so we rely on Androscoggin County. We have been dealing with the ongoing issue of not being called for tows in our own town. Our fire chief has tried to advocate for us with the Androscoggin dispatch office. He was told that the deputies call who ever they want. Chief Moore told them that was unacceptable, because we are located in this town and our response time would be the best. Dispatch told him that they do not require their deputies to use a rotation/call list, they can call whoever they want.

Once we did receive one call from a member of the Durham Fire Department for a 2-vehicle motor vehicle accident.

We towed a GMC Sierra pick up to our shop. I did not have any information on the owner as all of the paperwork was removed from the truck. Six days later, we received a call from the vehicle owner asking if we had his truck.

He said he called Androscoggin dispatch to ask who towed his truck, he was told, Ferns in Lisbon Falls. The did not have it. He was then told, Campbells in Lisbon, the did not. He was then told that Atlantic Coast Towing in Brunswick had it. He called them, asked if they had a white GMC Sierra, they said yes. He went there, paid the towing and storage fees, proceeded with the representative of Atlantic Towing to go get his belongings from the truck to find that it was a white, Chevy Silverado.

Frustrated he began calling around to any and all of the tow companies he could find. We were the eighth company he called.

I know that we were told by Major Scott during a pre public hearing discussion that if a motorist calls dispatch that there is a record of who towed the vehicle. This case proves that his statement is inaccurate.

LD 1228 will ensure that there is a true public record of all tow information. I urge you to vote in favor of this bill so that folks are able to access necessary information.