

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

My name is Jay Wadleigh and I work for the Machinist Union. For several months we have been working with the towing association to help improve the industry.

This LD helps address an issue of basic fairness. There are some public servants who favor one business over another and routinely directs all the work to these select companies. This bill would not fix that in its entirety, but what it does do - is shine a light on the issue. If all calls that are not at a customer's request are recorded, it will soon be obvious where problems may exist and where they don't.

I asked an Androscoggin sheriff; how do you pick which towing company to call. Is it the closest, do you use a rotation? He replied "we pick who we want."

This bill would simply create a public record of who is being called and when. We are talking about State and County officers who are funded with tax dollars, and asking for transparency.

There is a second aspect of the bill that would benefit consumers. Often when vehicles are towed the owner is not present. My Sister had to look for two days with dozens of calls to locate my nephews car after he was hit in an accident. The officer that had called the tow company on his cell phone was scheduled to be off the two days after the accident. Dispatch was not sure where to send her and the two they recommended did not have the car. This bill would solve that, a phone call or two at the most would send you in the right direction.

I urge you to look at LD 1228 and make the recommendation ought to pass, thank you.