

Claude Morgan  
Dirigo FCU  
LD 1846

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts and distinguished members of the Transportation Committee; my name is Claude Morgan, and I am the collections manager at Dirigo Federal Credit Union based in Lewiston. I write this letter today in support of LD 1846.

Imagine waking up to find your car engine has seized. It's eight o'clock, Monday morning and you need to transport your vehicle to the mechanic. Last year something similar happened and the tow to the shop cost you \$370.00. So, it's bound to be somewhere in that ballpark, right? Now, imagine you are handed an invoice in the amount of \$7,000.00 for that tow to the same shop and same location as last year. And now the tow truck company says you have 15-days to pay the fee, or they are keeping your car.

Would it have been helpful for you to know a little more about your options before your vehicle was lifted onto the back of that tow truck? Why was this tow so expensive? Why are you towing my vehicle in a special truck meant to tow big rigs off the Turnpike when the company operates a fleet of smaller trucks?

Did I mention that you only owe your credit union \$10,000.00 in remaining payments? You don't have \$7,000.00 lying around. The credit union would love to pay it and get you back in your vehicle, but we all know the car is currently only worth \$9,000.00.

Maine credit unions face this surreal scenario every day. Pay the nightmarish fee or lose the car and the entire investment in what amounts to a forfeiture by invoice. Maine credit unions believe these fees should be itemized and explained to the consumer and their lienholders. In this scenario, lienholders are often the only party who can afford to redeem a vehicle when the towing fee is so high.

Please support LD 1846. This bill offers common-sense solutions and accountability to consumers and lenders and will help reduce the number of vehicles lost to the nightmare of opaque fees and unaccountable expenses.