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State Senator - Senate District 28

**Assembly Committee on Consumer Protection**  
**Assembly Bill 695/Senate Bill 536**  
**February 4, 2014**

Good morning committee members and thank you for your attention to Assembly Bill 695 (AB 695).

2011 Wisconsin Act 187 made it possible for consumers in Wisconsin to purchase air conditioner coolant for motor vehicles from retailers for non-commercial use. While the coolants are now available at retailers throughout the state without regulation, businesses that repair air conditioners remain subject to Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) licensing and regulations.

AB 695 removes unnecessary and duplicate state regulations and permit motor vehicle air conditioner repair centers to compete to provide service to the public, while remaining subject to federal regulations. This legislation eliminates the requirement DATCP issue annual certifications. AB 695 requires persons servicing a motor vehicle air conditioner containing ozone-depleting refrigerants are properly trained and certified as specified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

AB 695 eliminates DATCP's duty to promulgate rules establishing qualifications for persons using equipment for removing or recycling ozone-depleting refrigerants (ODRs) from motor vehicle air conditioners. The bill also eliminates the requirement for DATCP to issue annual certifications. Instead, AB 695 prohibits a person from servicing a motor vehicle air conditioner containing an ODR unless the person is properly trained and certified as specified by the EPA.

January 3, 2014, DATCP issued an emergency rule seeking the same goal as AB 695. Approval of these bills avoids the extensive rulemaking process while accomplishing the same goal of removing registration fees on small business, harmonizing training requirements with federal law, and repealing obsolete code references. AB 695 eliminates the financial burden on small business while maintaining EPA protections.

Thank you for your attention to AB 695.