



State Senator Sheila Harsdorf

Date: August 27, 2013

To: Assembly Committee on Transportation

Fr: Senator Sheila Harsdorf

Re: Senate Bill 75—Operating certain three-vehicle combinations on highways

Dear Chair Ripp and Committee Members,

Thank you for holding a public hearing on Senate Bill 75 (SB 75), which seeks to increase the allowable length of certain three-vehicle combinations from 65 feet to 70 feet. I appreciate the opportunity to speak in support of passage of SB 75.

Current law provides that a person may operate certain three-vehicle combinations without a permit as long as they do not exceed 65 feet in overall length. However, some three-vehicle combinations for those seeking to camp and engage in recreational sports exceed the current allowable length limit of 65 feet. Of our neighboring states, both Minnesota and Iowa allow certain three-vehicle combinations of up to 70 feet. This bill would align Wisconsin law with that of these neighboring states by increasing the allowable length limit of three-vehicle combinations by only five feet.

SB 75 would allow the operation of three-vehicle combinations, without a permit, that do not exceed 70 feet under the following, specific provisions. First, the towing vehicle must be equipped with a fifth wheel coupling. Next, the second vehicle in a three-vehicle combination may be a recreational vehicle or camping trailer, which includes any combination camping-horse trailer. The third vehicle in the combination may be another recreational vehicle or camping trailer or a trailer carrying any vehicle for recreational use (bicycle, moped, motor bicycle, motorcycle, all-terrain vehicle, utility terrain vehicle, snowmobile, boat, sailboard, personal watercraft, or electric personal assistive mobility device), a trailer carrying equestrian equipment, or a trailer carrying no load. Additionally, one of the towed vehicles in the combination must be equipped with brakes if the total weight of all towed vehicles is over 3,000 pounds.

SB 75 was drafted with guidance from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and it mirrors the requirements set forth in Minnesota law relating to safe operation of three-vehicle combinations. The three-vehicle combinations may not be operated under hazardous highway or weather conditions.

I urge your support for this legislation in order to make it easier for individuals to travel between states, which would have a positive impact on our tourism industry. I am pleased that SB 75 already passed the Senate earlier this year in May with unanimous, bipartisan support.

Thank you again for allowing me to speak in favor of the passage of SB 75. I would welcome the opportunity to take questions.

August 27, 2013

Dear chairman Ripp and committee members:

We are writing in support of senate bill 75, which would increase the allowable length for certain three - vehicle combinations from 65 feet to 70 feet.

Two years ago my wife and I upgraded our camper from a small pickup camper to a 28 foot fifth wheel RV. We began triple towing with a small 14 foot boat behind the fifth wheel. I was a little nervous at first, but after our first trip all fears were erased. We now triple tow about 6 times a summer and really enjoy our camping trips.

We would now like to make one more upgrade to a 1650 fishing boat. Our current length comes in at 63 feet, but if we upgrade to a 1650, it would come in at about 67 feet, which would break the current law of 65 feet even though the boat would actually be only 2.5 feet longer.

In the real world of fifth wheels and fishing boats, they both would be considered to be on the smaller side of things but are big upgrades for us and all we need. We have had absolutely no issues with our current combination and feel adding five feet, which is where our nearby neighbors are at (Minnesota), would have no impact on safety. We have talked to many others at campgrounds who do this and all agree, going to 70 feet would still be safe but open more doors to us.

In conclusion, we hope senate bill 75 will be passed by committee members. It would make our camping-fishing trips that much more enjoyable.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Scott and Jeri Lu Brenner
N4549 CTH.O
Ellsworth Wis. 54011
715-792-5213

August 27, 2013

Dear Chairman Ripp and Committee Members:

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 75, which would increase the allowable length for certain three-vehicle combinations from 65 feet to 70 feet because:

1. With the 65 foot length even with the shortest boat trailer, we would have to cut off 2 feet of the tongue and that makes the 3rd vehicle too close to the 2nd vehicle.
2. Neighboring states are already at 70 feet. Also, the added length doesn't cause added tracking when turning corners because of the positioning of the wheels on the towed vehicles.

Sincerely,

Bill Maassen
2117 - 250th St.
St. Croix Falls, WI 54024
715-483-9758
651-269-6015 cell

August 27, 2013

Dear Chairman Ripp and Committee Members:

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 75, which would increase the allowable length for certain three-vehicle combinations from 65 feet to 70 feet because....

1. With RV's getting longer and some boat trailers have break - away tongues (fold back) the 65 foot length is very difficult to meet, we would have to cut off some part of the tongue and that makes the 3rd vehicle too close to the 2nd vehicle.
2. Neighboring states are already at 70 feet. Also, the added length doesn't cause added tracking when turning corners because of the positioning of the wheels on the towed vehicles.

Sincerely,

Lynn Chrisinger
4311 N. Polaris Pkwy
Janesville, WI 53546

August 27, 2013

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1. With the 65 foot length even with the shortest boat trailer, we would have to cut off 2 feet of the tongue and that makes the 3rd vehicle too close to the 2nd vehicle.
2. Neighboring states are already at 70 feet. Also, the added length doesn't cause added tracking when turning corners because of the positioning of the wheels on the towed vehicles.

Sincerely,

Darrell Chrisinger
23 W. St. Mary St.
Milton, WI 53563
608-868-4935