



# CODY HORLACHER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 33<sup>RD</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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P.O. Box 8952  
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January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Chairman Spiros and Assembly Transportation Committee Members,

Under current law, vehicles kept in seven counties of Southeastern Wisconsin are subject to emission testing: Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Sheboygan, Washington, and Waukesha. Testing is required at change of ownership and at time of registration renewal.

Motorists receive notice of the emission-testing requirement after they have titled and registered the vehicle. Failure to complete the emission requirement within the required 45-day time period results in the suspension of the newly-purchased vehicle's registration.

Every other year, 1996 and newer vehicles must be inspected before their license plates can be renewed. These vehicles have on-board diagnostics that monitor a vehicle's engine and emission control system. A vehicle with any malfunctioning diagnostic component, even with clean emissions, fails the state emissions inspection. Recognizing that not all check engine light issues are related to emissions issues, this bill only subjects vehicles 10 years or newer to emissions testing.

Motor vehicle emission control measures are a major part of the national plan to control air pollution in our urban areas. Nationally, air quality levels have been the best on record since 1970. The air quality improvement is happening all while the U.S. population, gross domestic product, and vehicle miles traveled have increased. Current cars are almost 97% cleaner than 1970 models.

AB 555 is a commonsense approach to reducing the overly burdensome federal regulation placed on citizens in Southeastern Wisconsin. This legislation addresses the concerns of many of my constituents who are frustrated by the time and money they have to expend every other year just to get to work, school, and church. We need to address this issue head on and work to provide assistance to those who are required to comply with this mandate.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my testimony today and I am available for any questions you may have.



# CHRIS KAPENGA

WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

## **Testimony on Assembly Bill 555**

*Assembly Committee on Transportation*

January 30, 2018

Thank you Chairman Spiros and committee members for hearing testimony today on Assembly Bill 555. I also want to thank Representative Horlacher for leading on this issue in the Assembly.

Vehicles kept in seven counties of Southeastern Wisconsin are subject to emission testing: Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Sheboygan, Washington, and Waukesha. Emission testing is required for vehicles newer than model year 1996. All vehicles are required to be tested once they become four model years old, and then retested every two years.

This bill makes a simple change to the age of vehicles required to have an emissions test. It would only require vehicles 10 years old or newer to have an emissions test using the same schedule as is currently in law.

In an effort to curb air pollution in our urban areas, the regulatory framework passed down from the federal EPA has fostered a burden on vehicle owners. For example, vehicles would fail emissions test when any of its on-board diagnostics become faulty despite a vehicle's emissions falling within regulatory limits. This often requires costly repairs on a vehicle's electronics system just to pass an unrelated emissions test.

Also, air quality in Wisconsin is well within the limits specified by the EPA and the impact of this law will have no effect on those levels.

Thank you for conducting this public hearing and I respectfully look forward to your support in helping make Wisconsin more affordable for lower income individuals and families.

## **Testimony for AB-555**

*Tuesday, January 30, 2018*

Dear Representative Spiros,

Please include the following written public testimony for tomorrow's public hearing on AB 555:

As a public health nurse and mother, I am writing in opposition of AB 555. Exempting motor vehicles that are at least 10 years old from emissions testing would be a huge step back in improving the air quality in our state. Poor air quality is harmful and can exacerbate childhood lung diseases, such as asthma. Exposure to poor air quality during pregnancy can lead to negative birth outcomes, such as low birth weight and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). The cost of vehicle air pollutants to family health and the economic burden to Wisconsin's healthcare system is too great to ignore. We need to maintain and improve our air quality standards for the health of Wisconsin.

Please do not support AB 555. Thank you for the opportunity to submit a written testimony.

Sincerely,

Jessica LeClair, RN

Madison, WI

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January 30, 2018

To: Assembly Committee on Transportation

Re: Opposition to AB 555 / SB 457, exempting motor vehicles older than 10 model years from emissions testing

For decades the residents and workers of Sheboygan County and many of the heavily populated manufacturing counties of southeast Wisconsin have lived with poor air quality. These areas were designated "non-attainment" because the air did not meet federal air quality standards. The good news is that actions to implement the federal Clean Air Act have improved air quality over the years and non-attainment designations have been removed. The bad news is that many communities still violate ozone and other air quality standards on a regular basis despite overall improvements.

The 2017 American Lung Association "State of the Air" report shows that the City of Sheboygan "ranked 24 for high ozone days out of 228 metropolitan areas " Source: <http://www.lung.org/our-initiatives/healthy-air/sota/city-rankings/msas/sheboygan-wi.html#ozone> Wisconsin's status for the 2016 American Lung Association "State of the Air" is reported at: <http://www.lung.org/local-content/content-items/about-us/media/press-releases/wisconsin-air-quality-west-sota2016.html>

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin has strong positions written to protect human health and preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment. League positions promote measures to reduce pollution from mobile and stationary sources in order to protect Air Quality.

AB 555 and companion bill SB 457 are premature. They fail to recognize that existing air pollution will continue to affect families, children, workers and the vulnerable elderly and infirm in communities that are still experiencing unhealthy Bad Air Days.

It makes little sense from a public health standpoint to stop testing older vehicles that may cause harmful air pollution. The older a vehicle is the less likely that it runs properly and the less likely that the air emissions controls are properly tuned to remove toxic air particulates. Even on newer vehicles, emissions controls need periodic testing and re-tuning.

Transportation air emissions cause serious health impacts. Air emissions from transportation and fossil fuels used in industry are responsible for ground-level ozone/smog and particle pollution. Millions of US residents exposed to ozone and particle pollution are at risk of shortened lives, immediate breathing problems, increased asthma attacks and even cardiovascular effects. Infants and young children may suffer lung damage and other adverse developmental impacts. The elderly, those living near congested highways and those who work outdoors are most sensitive to air pollution.

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin opposes AB 555/SB 457. We ask you to vote against these companion bills in order protect the quality of the air we all must breathe. Thank you for your consideration of our position.