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Assembly Bill 322

Assembly Transportation Committee

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As elected officials, one of our prime duties is finding ways to remove unneeded regulations that stand in the way of improving our business climate. Assembly Bill 322 will eliminate an outdated regulation that will allow for the creation of a new alternative transportation option for Wisconsin's communities.

This new option, referred to as car-sharing, provide members with a network of vehicles in which they may rent, drive and then return anywhere within a defined district. The cars are usually returned to a municipal parking spot that will have posted time limits. Under current law, municipalities do not have the flexibility to negotiate parking rates beyond their posted time limits.

This legislation will allow, but not mandate, communities to work with car-sharing companies to set an appropriate parking fee for their vehicles. Madison has already publically stated their interest in making this service available. I would assume other larger communities will also pursue this option upon passage of the bill.

This new option provides a number of benefits for the individual. They have a car at their disposal without having to worry about paying for upkeep, gas or parking. Unlike a standard rental car, the driver doesn't have to pick up the car or return the car to a specific lot.

Car-sharing is a growing transportation alternative worldwide. It currently is offered in 27 cities around the world, with 15 of those in North America. The Twin Cities just recently became the latest to join the club.

Thank you for taking my testimony and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.