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May 17th, 2017

Chairman Petrowski and Transportation and Veterans Affairs Committee Members,

Thank you for holding a Public Hearing on SB 134 related to repealing a rule of the Department of Transportation related to the purchase of school transportation.

SB 134 is a commonsense bill that reduces government regulation and allows school bus purchasers to operate more effectively and efficiently.

This bill simply eliminates an unnecessary and burdensome regulation regarding the purchase of school buses that are more than five years old and have been previously titled and registered in another state.

This introduction section was included in the administrative rule section that was promulgated by the Department of Transportation in 1995 as part of a new section of regulations specifically focused on purchasers of school buses for student transportation. There have been no substantive changes to this rule since 1995. This rule prevents purchasers from competitively bidding to purchase school buses and should be removed.

SB 134 does not make any changes to the safety requirements related to the operation of school buses in the State of Wisconsin. Any purchaser that purchases a bus would be required to fulfill all the current safety requirements before operating that bus in Wisconsin.

Several bus company owners as well as school district business managers have reached out to my office in support of this legislation. By eliminating this provision we can allow purchasers to buy buses from warmer climates, which have a longer lifespan. This also saves money through the competitive bidding process, allowing districts or purchasers to reinvest those dollars in other areas. This overly burdensome regulation needs to be removed and this bill does just that.

I appreciate your consideration of this bill and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.



DEVIN LEMAHIEU

STATE SENATOR

DATE: May 17, 2017
RE: **Testimony on 2017 Senate Bill 134**
TO: The Senate Committee on Transportation and Veterans Affairs
FROM: Senator Devin LeMahieu

Chairman Petrowski and committee members, thank you for taking time today to discuss Senate Bill 134, that repeals a Department of Transportation rule, related to the purchase of school buses for school transportation.

A DOT rule prohibits the purchase of an out-of-state school bus used in the transportation of students if the bus is over five years old. Senate Bill 134 eliminates this prohibition, removing an onerous and burdensome regulation placed on consumers. This proposal does not remove any of the safety regulations placed on school buses. All buses must still be inspected and approved by Wisconsin Department of Transportation before they can be used to transport students.

The current rule prevents buyers from competitively bidding to purchase school buses. This bill reduces government regulation and allows school bus purchasers to operate more effectively and efficiently while upholding Wisconsin's school bus safety standards.

Thank you for your consideration.