

3 SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

MS 81

DATE: 8/29/01

BILL NO. SB 56  
OR

SUBJECT \_\_\_\_\_

Robert Maass  
(NAME)

Box 696  
(Street Address or Route Number)

Rhinelandert, Wn. 5901  
(City and Zip Code)

WVida Co. & WEHA  
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:  
but not speaking:

Registering Against:  
but not speaking:

Speaking for information  
only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY.

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms  
State Capitol - B35 South  
P.O.Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: August 29, 2001

BILL NO. SB 56  
OR

SUBJECT \_\_\_\_\_

Allison Kujawa  
(NAME)

100 River Place, Suite 101  
(Street Address or Route Number)

Menomona 53716  
(City and Zip Code)

Wisconsin Counties Assoc.  
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:  
but not speaking:

Registering Against:  
but not speaking:

Speaking for information  
only; Neither for nor against:

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Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 8-29-01

BILL NO. SB 56  
OR

SUBJECT \_\_\_\_\_

Tim Garity  
(NAME)

1006 CARRIAGE WAY  
(Street Address or Route Number)

Palmryn, WI 53156  
(City and Zip Code)

AESAME  
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:  
but not speaking:

Registering Against:  
but not speaking:

Speaking for information  
only; Neither for nor against:

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**SENATE HEARING SLIP**

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 8-29-01

BILL NO. SB-56

SUBJECT \_\_\_\_\_

Scott O. SHARP

(NAME) 53187

136 13th Ave

(Street Address or Route Number)

WINDY GROVE

(City and Zip Code)

Madison AFSCME Council 40

(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:

but not speaking:

Registering Against:

but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

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Madison, WI 53707-7882

**SENATE HEARING SLIP**

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 8-29-2001

BILL NO. SB-56

SUBJECT Snowplow

Bellevue district

Kim Plache

(NAME)

2014 17th St.

(Street Address or Route Number)

LACRIVE WJ

(City and Zip Code)

21st District

(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:

but not speaking:

Registering Against:

but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

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Madison, WI 53707-7882

**SENATE HEARING SLIP**

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 8-29-01

BILL NO. SB 56

SUBJECT \_\_\_\_\_

Beth Smith

8033 Excelsior Dr.

(NAME)

Madison WI 53713

(Street Address or Route Number)

(City and Zip Code)

AFSCME Council 111

(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:

but not speaking:

Registering Against:

but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

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Senate Sergeant-At-Arms  
State Capitol - B35 South  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

**SENATE HEARING SLIP**

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 08/29/01

BILL NO. SB 56

OR

SUBJECT ETC

(NAME)

JEFF LORETTZ, LT

(Street Address or Route Number)

(City and Zip Code)

STATE HOUSE - DOT

(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:

but not speaking:

*Available For Question*  
Registering Against:

but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY.

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms  
State Capitol - B35 South  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

**SENATE HEARING SLIP**

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 8-29-01

BILL NO. S.B. 56

OR

SUBJECT Supplemental Bill

(NAME)

MARK WADSWORTH

(Street Address or Route Number)

410 S. Walnut St.

(City and Zip Code)

Appleton, WI 54911

(Representing)

Outagamie County Board of Supervisors

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:

but not speaking:

Registering Against:

but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

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Senate Sergeant-At-Arms  
State Capitol - B35 South  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

**SENATE HEARING SLIP**

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 8-29-01

BILL NO. SB. 56

OR

SUBJECT \_\_\_\_\_

(NAME)

DAVID M. KRATH

(Street Address or Route Number)

515 West Moreland Blvd

(City and Zip Code)

Waukesha, WI 53188

(Representing)

Waukesha County

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:

but not speaking:

Registering Against:

but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

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Senate Sergeant-At-Arms  
State Capitol - B35 South  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

**SENATE HEARING SLIP**

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: August 29, 2001

BILL NO. SB-56

OR

SUBJECT Small Pews Bill

Michael J. Sarpe

(NAME)

1010 56th St.

(Street Address or Route Number)

Kenosha 53140

(City and Zip Code)

Kenosha County

(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:

but not speaking:

Registering Against:

but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger **PROMPTLY.**

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms  
State Capitol - B35 South  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

# Vote Record

## Senate - Committee on Insurance, Tourism, and Transportation

Date: 8/29/01  
 Moved by: Br      Seconded by: G  
 AB: \_\_\_\_\_ SB: 56      Clearinghouse Rule: \_\_\_\_\_  
 AJR: \_\_\_\_\_ SJR: \_\_\_\_\_      Appointment: \_\_\_\_\_  
 AR: \_\_\_\_\_ SR: \_\_\_\_\_      Other: \_\_\_\_\_

A/S Amdt: \_\_\_\_\_  
 A/S Amdt: \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Amdt: \_\_\_\_\_  
 A/S Sub Amdt: \_\_\_\_\_  
 A/S Amdt: \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Sub Amdt: \_\_\_\_\_  
 A/S Amdt: \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Amdt: \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Sub Amdt: \_\_\_\_\_

- Be recommended for:
- Passage
  - Introduction
  - Adoption
  - Rejection
  - Indefinite Postponement
  - Tabling
  - Concurrence
  - Nonconcurrence
  - Confirmation

Committee Member

	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
Sen. Roger Breske, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Richard Grobschmidt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Jim Baumgart	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Alan Lasee	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Dale Schultz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Totals: \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Carried

Motion Failed



MAR 27 REC'D

KIMBERLY M. PLACHE

STATE SENATOR • TWENTY FIRST SENATE DISTRICT

March 26, 2001

Sen. Roger Breske  
Committee on Insurance, Tourism  
And Transportation  
Room 18 South - State Capitol  
Madison WI 53707

Dear Sen. <sup>Roger</sup>Breske:

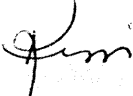
I write to request that you hold a public hearing on Senate Bill 56, which relates to following a snowplow.

As you may recall from previous sessions, this bill would require persons following a snowplow in operation to remain at least 200 feet behind the plow.

Please schedule a public hearing on SB 56 at your earliest convenience.

Thank you for your attention to my request.

Sincerely,

  
Kimberly M. Plache  
State Senator

KP:ja



## Wisconsin Council 40

AFSCME, AFL-CIO

8033 Excelsior Drive, Suite B  
Madison, Wisconsin 53717-1903  
Phone: 608 836-4040  
Fax: 608 836-4444

Michael Murphy  
*President*  
Robert W. Lyons  
*Executive Director*

DATE: August 2001

TO: Senator Roger Breske, Chair, and Members of the Senate Insurance, Tourism and Transportation Committee

FROM: Scott Sharp and Jim Garity, AFSCME Council 40

RE: SB-56, Snowplow Following Distance

We appreciate the opportunity to support this legislation and comment on the circumstances that warrant its approval and passage.

It goes without saying that winter ice and snow removal is a stressful and potentially hazardous part of the occupational duties of street and highway workers. The problems associated with such operations have grown steadily worse over the years, with accidents becoming commonplace.

We can personally address some of the issues involved in these accidents, the equipment downtime they involve, and the diversion of personnel resources they represent. Between us, we have decades of snow removal experience.

But we want to keep the focus on public safety. No snowplow operator wants to hit a motorist. Snowplows are mini-freight trains in their own way, possessing size and momentum sufficient to cause great harm. Add to that low visibility and distractions during operation, and we have a very challenging environment.

It is essential that members of the driving public understand that we must be given wide berth and that we cannot see them if they are within our rear "blind zone".

As an aid to discussion, we have attached three pages from DOT's 1999-2000 snowplow crash report. These are the most recent numbers available on season totals, frequency breakdown, and categorized crashes. These totals involve only county plows on state highways. We can assure you that the totals involving other roads and units of government are even higher in number, although they may be less serious due to lower speeds on streets and secondary roads.

In the categorized accidents one can see that incidents involving following distance are readily apparent. "Rear-ending" accounts for 21 accidents. Same direction slides account for 8 accidents. Even the 5 backup accidents probably involve a combination of following distance and poor visibility.



*in the public service*



Senate Insurance, Tourism & Transportation Committee  
August 2001  
Page 2

Our organization and its street and highway members would deeply appreciate anything you could do to solve this problem. We believe that SB-56 will promote needed changes in the rules of the road and will encourage driver education about winter operations. We urge support and approval of the bill. We are available to answer questions about winter highway operations.

Thank you.

SS/JG/mmb

Attachments

cc: Sandra Bloomfield (with attachments)



# 1999-2000 SNOWPLOW CRASHES

## FREQUENCY BREAKDOWN

CATEGORIZED CRASHES (Crashes where explanation was provided by county and/or was detailed on the accident report)	Total Crashes (Minus Duplicates)	Crashed Not Counted
Vehicle Rear Ended Snowplow	21	0
Broken Windshield On Other Vehicle	13	13
Snowplow Hit Fixed Object Or Threw Snow	9	9
That Hit and Damaged Fixed Object (Excluding Parked Vehicles)	9	0
Vehicle Hit Snowplow Wing (Same Direction)	8	0
Vehicle Slid Into Snowplow (Same Direction)	5	0
Snowplow Backed Into Vehicle	3	0
Vehicle Slid Into Snowplow (Opposite Direction)	2	0
Snowplow Hit Parked Car	2	0
Vehicle Backed Into Snowplow	2	0
Car Hit Snowplow Head On	1	0
Vehicle Hit Snowplow Mirror	1	0
Snowplow Hit Mirror On Fixed Object	1	1
Vehicle Hit Parked Snowplow	1	0
Snowplow Hit Deer	1	1
Snowplow Rollover	2	2
Snowplow Hit Bike	1	0
Wing Dug Into Embankment	1	1
Broke Wing While Lowering It	1	1
Vehicle Turned Into Snowplow	2	0
Car Hit Snowplow While Snowplow Making U-Turn	1	0
Vehicle Hit Snowplow Wing (Opposite Direction)	0	0
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>28</b>

UN-CATEGORIZED CRASHES (Crashes where no explanation was given by county or no accident report could be found in the database or no accident report (MV4000) was filed)	Total Crashes (Minus Duplicates)	Crashed Not Counted
Moving - Sideswipe Same Direction	3	0
Backing - Rear End	3	0
Threw Snow/Ice/Sand - Sideswipe Opposite Direction	3	3
Hit Fixed Object - Unknown	2	2
Moving - Rear end	2	0
Moving - Unknown	2	0
Backing - Unknown	2	0
Backing - Angle	1	0
Hit Fixed Object - Angle	1	1
Moving - Angle	1	0
Moving - Head On	0	0
Moving - Sideswipe Opposite Direction	1	0
Hit Parked Car - Sideswipe Same Direction	1	0
Ran Off Road - Sideswipe Same Direction	1	0
Threw Snow/Ice/Sand - No Collision	1	1
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>7</b>

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>35</b>
--------------	------------	-----------

TOTAL CRASHES ALL DISTRICTS 75

FREQUENCY BREAKDOWN

Section D

2

*only count these*

### 1999-2000 WINTER SEASON - SNOWPLOW CRASHES

	TOTALS	
A	CRASHES REPORTED BY COUNTY ON QUESTIONNAIRE	88
B	CRASHES FOUND DURING DMV ACCIDENT DATABASE SEARCH	51
C	SUM (A+B)	139
D	MINUS DUPLICATES (CRASHES REPORTED BY COUNTY AND ALSO IN DMV DATABASE)	29
E	SUM (C-D)	110
F	MINUS INCIDENTS NOT COUNTED (REPORTED BY COUNTY BUT DID NOT INVOLVE A COLLISION WITH ANOTHER VEHICLE)	35

<b>G</b>	<b>TOTALS SNOWPLOW CRASHES ON STATE HIGHWAYS DURING THE 1999-2000 WINTER SEASON</b>	<b>75</b>
----------	---	-----------

Most prevalent crash type => Snowplow rear ended by other vehicle

*County, town roads not included!*

#### Parameters:

- All crashes happened on **state trunk** highways and involved county snowplows
- Specified only vehicles with **Municipal** license plates
- Covered those crashes officially reported to law enforcement agencies on form MV4000 -
- Counted crashes documented by county highway departments that were not officially reported
- Reporting Period October 1, 1999 to June 1, 2000
- Specified truck types **3=Utility Truck**  
**4=Straight Truck (insert Truck), and**  
**19=Snowplows**
- Assumed no "dry" road conditions
- Only crashes where a collision was recorded were counted

#### Crash List Comparison Established

- Crashes that were found during the MV4000 database search that were also reported by the Counties were only counted once
- Crashes that were reported by counties where no collision was recorded were not counted  
(Not counted: broken windows due to thrown snow, snowplow rollover, snowplow hit fixed object, snowplow broke wing while lowering, snowplow wing dug into embankment, snowplow hit deer)

#### Categorized Crashes

- When the county provided detail of the crash, then the crashes were categorized to give "added value"
- All crashes reported on accident report (MV4000) were categorized

#### Un-Categorized Crashes

- County only provided severity, type, and manner of crash as specified on form

*No other info on crash*

*Mike Spool*



*Testimony of Scott Sharp  
In Support of Senate Bill 56  
Senate Insurance, Tourism & Transportation Committee  
August 29, 2001*

Thank you for this opportunity to express my wholehearted support for Senate Bill 56.

I am Scott Sharp and I have seen more excuses for this bill during my 24 years with the City of Racine's Public Works Department than I care to admit. Even in the most extreme conditions, it seems motorists these days are driving much faster, following much more closely and suffering more acutely from "King of the Road" syndrome.

And since I also chair the statewide Street and Highway Workers Advisory Committee of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Council 40, I know these are not isolated instances in the City of Racine. As we tragically witnessed in a rash of accidents that occurred last winter, when a vehicle and a snowplow collide it's usually the occupants of the vehicle who lose.

Some people have characterized the creation of the 200-foot following distance behind a plow as an attempt to legislate common sense. To me, this is no different from laws that require motorists to get out of the way of emergency vehicles or slow down in construction zones. Yes, it is legislating common sense, but sometimes passing a law and educating the public about the dangers and consequences of a particular behavior are necessary. Seat belt and drunk driving laws are good examples.

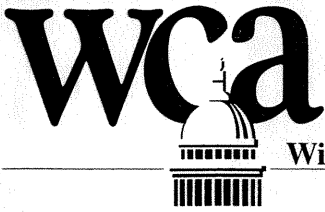
Other people say there has been no demonstrated need for such a law. A recent study by the state Department of Transportation revealed that last winter there were 75 documented collisions between motor vehicles and snowplows. And this is just on state highways, which represent only 10% of the roadway mileage in Wisconsin.

Of those crashes included in the DOT study, the most common causes were rear-end collisions and sideswipes of vehicles traveling in the same direction. This will not come as a surprise to my colleagues, who are all too familiar with motorists tailgating them or attempting to pass in the worst of conditions.

I would urge this committee to follow the action of your colleagues in the Assembly and pass this bill. Then we can move on with this important public safety issue that causes thousands of dollars in damage each year and usually claims a couple of lives. Even though snowplow workers like me generally fare better than the other driver, I can tell you firsthand that the emotional scars from these types of accidents take years to heal, if they do indeed heal.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my support for SB

56.



Wisconsin Counties Association

MEMORANDUM

**TO:** The Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Insurance, Tourism and Transportation

**FROM:** Allison Kujawa, ~~Legislative Associate~~

**DATE:** August 29, 2001

**SUBJECT:** Support for Senate Bill 56

The Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) strongly supports Senate Bill 56 (SB 56). SB 56 will provide for safer roads during Wisconsin's winters. Currently, there is no law that requires drivers to travel a safe distance behind a snowplow. Requiring that no person can follow closer than 200 feet behind a snowplow that is in the act of plowing a highway having a posted speed of more than 35 miles an hour, will help avoid potential accidents that result when drivers follow too closely behind a snowplow and lose visibility in the cloud of spray that a snowplow kicks up.

A recent court case in Portage county, *Frostman V. State Farm Mutual Insurance Co.*, set a very dangerous precedent. The county was found liable for creating a snow cloud while in the act of snowplowing. The driver claimed the snow cloud impaired her vision when trying to pass the snowplow. Creating a legal "rule of the road" will help to limit counties' liability related to their snowplow activities.

SB 56 will allow counties to continue to do the difficult job of snow removal in adverse conditions during Wisconsin's winters without the concern that many drivers are following behind them at a dangerously close distance.

County highway departments have the very difficult task of maintaining safe roads during Wisconsin's winters. SB 56 will provide counties and other municipalities with the proper latitude to effectively carry out this public service, as well as providing standards that will result in safer roads. For these reasons WCA respectfully requests your positive action on SB 56.

Thank you for considering our comments.



# Hearing Requests

---

Date: 3/28/01

Who: Sen. Plache

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Fax #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

What: SB56

Relating to: following snowplows

Hearing Scheduled  Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Where: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Requestee notified  Date: \_\_\_\_\_



MAR 27 REC'D

KIMBERLY M. PLACHE

STATE SENATOR • TWENTY FIRST SENATE DISTRICT

March 26, 2001

Sen. Roger Breske  
Committee on Insurance, Tourism  
And Transportation  
Room 18 South - State Capitol  
Madison WI 53707

Dear Sen. Breske: *Roger*

I write to request that you hold a public hearing on Senate Bill 56, which relates to following a snowplow.

As you may recall from previous sessions, this bill would require persons following a snowplow in operation to remain at least 200 feet behind the plow.

Please schedule a public hearing on SB 56 at your earliest convenience.

Thank you for your attention to my request.

Sincerely,

*Kim*  
Kimberly M. Plache  
State Senator

KP:ja

# Hearing Requests

---

Date: 4/19/01

Who: Dennis Boyer

Company: AFSCME

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: 836-464646

\_\_\_\_\_

Fax #: 836-3333

Email: ~~den~~ dennish@chorus.net

What: SB56

Relating to: snowplow following

---

Hearing Scheduled  Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Where: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Requestee notified  Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Hearing Requests

Date: 5/21/01

Who: Allison Kujanva

Company: WI Counties

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Fax #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

What: SB56 - snowplow

Relating to: \_\_\_\_\_

Hearing Scheduled  Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Where: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

- AB142 - passed Assembly Highway Safety
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Requestee notified  Date: \_\_\_\_\_