



JERRY PETROWSKI

WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

Senate Bill 320: Transport of Radiological Materials

October 28, 2015

Good morning, members of the committee, and thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today on Senate Bill 320, regarding the transport of radiological materials. This bill was authored at the request of the Department of Transportation. Representatives from the department are available today should you have any questions.

As of January 1, 2005, all vehicles and carriers transporting highway route controlled quantities of radioactive material are regulated by the U.S. Department of Transportation and required to pass the North American Standard Level VI Inspection. The Wisconsin State Patrol conducts this inspection and measures the packaged radioactive material to ensure safe transportation prior to departure.

Wisconsin State Patrol, in addition to Wisconsin Emergency Management, has participated in the escort of radiological waste from Wisconsin, while working with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and approved transporters. In general, State Patrol escorts the units without emergency lighting activated and in compliance with traffic laws to ensure proper routing and re-routing while in transit. Depending on the radioactivity, some shipments may also be accompanied by U.S. Department of Energy armed security.

This bill codifies current practice and creates a permit by which highway route controlled quantities of radioactive material may be transported in this state. The permit may be for single or multiple trips, and will require a designated route and an escort by the State Patrol.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak on this bill. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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DATE: October 28, 2015

TO: Members, Senate Committee on Transportation and Veterans Affairs
The Honorable Jerry Petrowski, Chair

FROM: Nate Yahn, Legislative Advisor
Wisconsin Department of Transportation

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 320 (transport of radiological materials)

Chairman Petrowski and Committee Members:

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify in support of Wisconsin Senate Bill 320 (SB 320). SB 320 relates to the transport of radiological materials.

As of January 1, 2005, all vehicles and carriers transporting highway route controlled quantities of radioactive material are regulated by the U.S. Department of Transportation and required to pass the North American Standard Level VI Inspection. The Wisconsin State Patrol conducts this inspection and measures the packaged radioactive material to ensure safe transportation prior to departure.

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The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) has the statutory responsibility to ensure the safety of the traveling public and for the operation of the state highway system, which includes all Interstates. This bill clarifies the department's role in establishing the safe route of travel (permit), and provides additional certainty for drivers of transport vehicles hauling the radioactive material with the issuance of a permit that will include any necessary routing, escorting and safety inspection requirements pursuant to both federal and state law.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (608) 266-1114.