



JERRY PETROWSKI

WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

Senate Bill 248

August 22, 2013

Thank you, members of the committee, for the opportunity to speak today on Senate Bill 248.

2011 Wisconsin Act 243, in part, increased the allowable length limit for operation of vehicles towing other vehicles in a “saddlemount combination” without a permit from 65 feet to 75 feet. I have provided a diagram of this configuration with my testimony for your information. The most common arrangement is one in which a semi-tractor is pulling other semi-tractors that are each attached to the fifth wheel mount of the preceding unit.

The bill we have before us today would increase the allowable length limit for vehicles utilizing the saddlemount combination from 75 feet to 97 feet, which is consistent with both federal law and with that of surrounding states. This change will help Wisconsin companies retain a competitive edge in handling the sales delivery of semi-tractors to and from this state. The increased length limit applies only to vehicle combinations operating on long truck routes or interstates as designated by DOT, but the current length limit of 75 feet applies when operating on any other highway.

I would like to thank the committee members for the opportunity to speak on this topic, and would be happy to answer any questions at this time.

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29.56 m (97 foot) maximum overall length limit

