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Senate Committee on General Government and Emergency Preparedness

Chair Riley, Vice-Chair Girod and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 1569 that would create a Board of Towing within ODOT that will help regulate predatory towing practices.

I am a constituent of Senator Riley's, I live in Hillsboro, and several years ago, I was the victim of a predatory towing incident. We had a new section of businesses and apartments open up in the Orenco neighborhood in Hillsboro, and there were signs along the street pointing people to parking spots for businesses. I ended up parking in a regulated spot two places away from an unregulated spot, but thought that I was in compliance with the signs. After going into a restaurant across the street, I came out a couple hours later to find my car gone. I thought it had been stolen and called the police before I realized that it may have been towed. While waiting for my wife to pick me up, I observed one man watching the parking lot with cell phone in hand. Another person pulled into the lot, near the same spot where my car had been and walked across the street to a business. The man on his cell phone called someone and not 2 minutes later a tow truck appeared and took that car as well. It was waiting around the corner to be tipped off by the man on the cell phone, while confusing parking signs led people to the wrong spots.

It was not the best timing financially for my wife and I, the charges to release my car were several hundred dollars. The company had my car for less than two hours and it was the Wednesday night before Thanksgiving. We were devastated. Predatory towing should be stopped, and I believe that this bill and the creation of a towing board will help to do that.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 1569. Please vote yes on SB 1569.

Thank you,

Noel Vargas