



## Representative Michael Dembrow

---

June 4, 2009  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Logan Gilles, (503) 986-1445

### **Predatory Towing Legislation Heads to Governor** *Riley-Dembrow Bill Clears Both Chambers*

Salem –The House today re-passed House Bill 2578 with minor Senate amendments, sending the bill on to Governor Kulongoski for his signature. The legislation would require towing companies to contact the owner of the property or the tenant before towing a vehicle and would allow the owner of the vehicle, if present, to move the vehicle without fees beyond those for the initial towing hookup. The bill would also require photographic evidence that the vehicle was illegally parked.

Rep. Michael Dembrow (D-NE Portland/Parkrose/Maywood Park) sponsored the legislation along with Rep. Chuck Riley (D-Hillsboro). The bill is an attempt to prevent so-called “patrol towing” in which a property owner and tower make an agreement allowing all unauthorized vehicles to be towed without any notification to the vehicle owner in exchange for a commission. Exceptions will exist for those vehicles that constitute immediate safety hazards or are parked in restricted areas.

“It's been my pleasure to work with Rep. Riley and his staff on this legislation,” said Dembrow, who is serving his first term in the Legislature. “When I came to Salem, I wanted to continue the good work that former Senator Avel Gordly had done on this issue. Rep. Riley took the lead in developing HB 2578 and together we were able to craft a bill that will protect consumers from these outrageous predatory towing practices.”

Dembrow, who teaches English at Portland Community College's Cascade campus, noted that his original inspiration to tackle predatory towing came from interactions with his students at the college. “Some of the stories that I've heard from students were unbelievable. The impact of these practices and the associated fees, especially on low-income people, can be significant. It was clear that this industry needed to be reigned in.”

The legislation calls for vehicle owners to be contacted in the event of disputed parking. It also requires that restrictions on parking be clearly posted by landlords, especially limitations on guest parking. In areas where the number of parking spots is less than the number of residences, notifications of the consequences of parking in the lot must be posted.

HB 2578, which passed the House by a margin of 56-0 and the Senate 27-0 now goes to the Governor's desk.

###