HB 5766

Ronald Hicks
820 Ranch Road
Gaylord, MI 49735

April 15, 2018

The Honorable Triston Cole
105th District
Michigan House of Representatives

Dear Representative Cole:

Earlier, this winter, I contacted your office concerning an incident, when, a Michigan State Police officer informed me that I could not use an amber oscillating light on my plow truck.

I am employed with a sporting goods retailer in Gaylord and part of my job involves snow removal from the parking lot, using the companies plow truck. On the day in question I was plowing out the lot entrances. Since it is illegal to push snow into or across a public roadway, I had entered business 27 and re-entered the lot, pushing the snow bank in to the curb. That is when the DOT officer pulled into our parking lot and approached my vehicle. He informed me that I was not Allowed to use the oscillating amber light that I have on my truck. I explained, that, I believed the law actually mandates that I must run such light when entering a public highway while plowing or in any parking lot accessible by the public. The officer then explained that this was a warning and next time I would be ticketed.

I have since reviewed the law and understand fully, that, as a commercial plow operator I AM required to run an oscillating amber light. I also understand that the confusion occurred because of the wording concerning the use of GREEN oscillating lights, which are only allowed on municipal vehicles.

Now, the weather conditions in Gaylord over the past few days has certainly demonstrated the need for commercial trucks to run amber lights. The snow/ice has been epic! Those lights help keep us and the surrounding vehicles safe. Visibility is everything when we back out into a four lane highway! It just seems to be common sense.

Sincerely,

Ronald B. Hicks