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TOWING INDUSTRY CELEBRATES PASSAGE OF MOVE OVER LAW RESOLUTION



November 15, 2022

Washington, DC – The Towing and Recovery Association of America, Inc.® (TRA) celebrates today's passage of the Move Over Law Resolution (H.Res. 1463) in the U.S. House of Representatives. The resolution, which was introduced by Congressman Jim McGovern (D-MA 2), supports the goals and ideals of Move Over laws and urges relevant Federal and State agencies, as well as nongovernmental organizations involved in traffic incident management response, to promote the existence of and adherence to State Move Over laws.

“Roadside emergency responders – from law enforcement, fire service personnel, and EMTs to tow truck operators and other transportation workers – know all too well the dangers of roadside response. They keep us safe every day, and we have a responsibility to do our part to keep them safe in return,” said Congressman Jim McGovern (D-MA-02), “As we recognize National Crash Responder Safety Week, and head into the holiday season, I am proud to champion this effort in the House of Representatives and pass this resolution to raise public awareness about the importance of “Slow Down, Move Over” laws.”

The passage of H.Res. 1463 will undoubtedly increase public awareness of Move Over laws and the need for drivers to slow down and move over when they see any incident responder on the side of the road. The industry deeply appreciates Congressman McGovern's leadership on this issue and the entire House of Representatives for their concern for the nation's traffic incident management responder community which includes tow truck operators, law enforcement, fire and rescue, emergency medical services, and transportation workers.

Every state has a “Move Over” law that generally requires motorists to move at least one lane over when there is an emergency or rescue activity taking place on the shoulder or side of the roadway; or, if unable to do so safely, to alternatively slow down and pass the scene with caution. However, according to the Emergency Responder Safety Institute, there were still 65 traffic incident management responders who were killed due to roadside collisions in 2021 and studies show that a tow operator dies every six days in the United States.

“TRA is incredibly proud to have worked with Congressman McGovern and his staff on this over the past year and especially since its introduction in April,” says Cynthia Martineau TRAA's Executive Director. “We strongly believe that this resolution will bring much needed attention to each state's existing Move Over Law and increase roadside safety for every responder.”

TRAA looks forward to the anticipated passage of the Senate companion, S.Res. 734, introduced by Senators Blumenthal (D-CT) and Braun (R-IN), in August 2022.

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The Towing and Recovery Association of America, Inc.[®] (TRAA) is the voice of the towing industry. As the only national association for the towing industry, TRAA represents more than 35,000 towing companies that operate more than 210,000 commercial motor vehicles and employ more than 350,000 professionals in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and many Territories.

Reducing roadside fatalities is a priority for the towing industry at both the state and federal levels and TRAA advocates for a variety of policy initiatives in Washington, DC to protect the industry's workforce.