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To: The Honorable Kumar Barve
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee

From: Karen S. Straughn
Consumer Protection Division

Re: House Bill 1384 – Towing or Removal of Vehicles from Parking Lots – Reclamation
Hours (OPPOSE)

The Consumer Protection Division of the Office of the Attorney General submits the following written testimony in opposition to House Bill 1384 submitted by Delegates Veronica Turner and Michael A. Jackson. This bill proposes to change the period of time when persons can reclaim their vehicles that have been towed from 24 hours a day to 7 am to 7 pm.

Towing of a vehicle can place a family at a potential for greater loss if a family member is unable to work as a result of having their vehicle towed. Many hard working families would find it difficult to be able to retrieve their vehicles between the hours of 7 am and 7 pm without having to take off time from work. If they are unable to take off time immediately, then the expense of being towed increases as storage charges are added for each day they are unable to retrieve their vehicles. The expense to a tow shop is minimal compared to the expense that may be incurred by an individual who is unable to retrieve their vehicle for several days.

For these reasons, we ask that the Environment and Transportation Committee return an unfavorable report on this bill.

cc: The Honorable Veronica Turner
The Honorable Michael A. Jackson
Members, Environment and Transportation Committee

