



Testimony of the RV Industry Association before the Senate Committee on Transportation on SB 5824

Chair Lilas, Vice-Chair Lovick, ranking member King and members of the Committee, I am Michael Ochs, Director of State Government Affairs for the RV Industry Association. I thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today on its behalf in strong support of the proposed substitute for SB 5824, bipartisan legislation to clarify the proper method of measuring fifth-wheel travel trailers.

The RV Industry Association is the national trade association which represents recreation vehicle (RV) manufacturers and their component parts suppliers, who together build more than 98 percent of all RVs produced in the U.S. The Association is the unifying force for promoting safety and professionalism within the RV industry; and works with federal and state policymakers, as well as recognized national standards-setting bodies, to promote and protect the RV industry. Our members build RVs – travel trailers, fifth-wheel travel trailers, folding camping trailers, and park model RVs.

According to an economic impact study done by John Dunham and Associates, the total economic output of the RV industry in Washington was \$2.49 billion, representing approximately 1206 RV-industry related businesses paying nearly \$950 million in wages and responsible for more than 13,000 jobs in Washington.

The RV Industry Association is very supportive of the approach taken by this legislation on measurement of fifth-wheel travel trailers. The changes being contemplated by this proposed substitute will clarify the proper method by designating the distance from the kingpin to the rear extremity of the trailer as its length. This method is very similar to a law in California that was passed several years ago to correctly measure the length of fifth-wheel travel trailers, based on input from the state Highway Patrol.

We urge all members of this Committee to vote “Yes” on this important legislation and advance SB 5824 to the full Senate.