



# Wisconsin Towing Association

*A Division of the Wisconsin Motor Carriers Association*  
Neal Kedzie, President

**CHAIR**  
Jamon Ingelse  
Lanser Garage and Towing

**FIRST VICE CHAIR**  
Shawn Topel  
Topel Truck Center

**IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR**  
Mark Block  
Ray's Towing

**SECRETARY**  
Dan Johnson  
WMCA/WTA

December 23, 2014

Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
State Traffic Operations Center  
433 W. St. Paul Ave., Suite 300  
Milwaukee, WI 53203

To whom it may concern:

As the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Wisconsin Towing Association, we respectfully request the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Bureau of Traffic Operations, give all due consideration to promoting Wisconsin's 'Move Over' law on statewide Digital Message Signs (DMS) to increase awareness of this important emergency responder safety law.

The law was enacted in 2001, and while we believe many drivers are aware of it, we are very concerned many are not. Each year, emergency responders, law enforcement officers, and tow operators place themselves in harm's way when performing their duties providing aid to a stranded or injured motorist on Wisconsin's Interstate system. These men and women take great care to ensure their own safety, as well as the safety of the individuals they assist. Unfortunately, some drivers do not take such precautions. One such incident occurred recently, which is why we call on you now with this request.

On October 20, 2014, Nathan Walsh — an experienced and safety-minded tow operator — was struck and killed on the Interstate near Osseo while performing his duties aiding a disabled vehicle and its passengers. Nate took every precaution in this matter, including instructing the family to stay clear of the area as he prepared to tow the vehicle to its next destination.

In that moment, a passing vehicle failed to heed the noticeable tow truck signal lights and move over as required by law, and struck Nate Walsh. The driver stopped and remained on scene, along with a law enforcement officer who made every attempt to save Nate's life. Sadly, the injuries sustained were too great, and Nate Walsh died at the scene.

This tragic event serves as reminder of the dangers we and other emergency responders face on Wisconsin's highways each year. It also serves as a call to not only remind drivers of the 'Move Over' law, but educate them on the reality of not doing so. We believe more efforts are needed to promote this law and the use of the 125 Digital Message Signs across the state would be a valuable and cost-effective method in which to do so; we hope you agree.

Therefore, on behalf of the members of the Wisconsin Towing Association — and Nathan Walsh and his family — we ask the Department to give all due consideration to our request, and thank you in advance for any positive steps taken to further promote Wisconsin's 'Move Over' law.

Sincerely,

**Jamon Ingelse**  
Chair, WI Towing Association  
Lanser Garage and Towing, Inc.  
Belgium, WI

**Shawn Topel**  
Vice Chair, WI Towing Association  
Topel Truck Center  
Lake Mills, WI