



HOWARD MARKLEIN

STATE SENATOR • 17TH SENATE DISTRICT

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Sen. Howard Marklein's "Roundabout Right-of-Way" Bill Signed by Governor

Common sense legislation protects drivers of semi-trailers, large agricultural vehicles and other heavy equipment on Wisconsin roadways.

MADISON— State Senator Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green) welcomed Jay and Lynda McDonald from Skyline Homes in Lancaster and Doug and Stacey Martyniuk from Skinner Transfer Inc. in Reedsburg to join Governor Scott Walker as he signed Act 139 into law today.

Assembly Bill (AB) 451, which became Act 139, gives large vehicles the legal right to deviate from their lane within a roundabout and establishes that smaller vehicles must yield the right of way to larger vehicles for safety. This change aligns the law with the reality of driving and gives certainty to our many semi and agricultural vehicle drivers trying to navigate through roundabouts.

“Act 139 addresses a serious issue with roundabouts in our communities,” Marklein said. “Roundabouts can be difficult for large semi-trucks, agricultural vehicles, motor coaches, and other large vehicles to navigate. Large vehicles, at times, need two lanes to safely navigate a roundabout.”

Prior law did not allow any driver to deviate between lanes for any reason. Drivers of large vehicles were held liable for accidents with cars attempting to pass them while in the roundabout.

“If this law change seems like we are legislating common sense, we are,” Marklein said. “Representative Ed Brooks and I were approached by Skinner Transfer of Reedsburg after one of their drivers had been cited for lane deviation in a roundabout after an accident, when the driver of a passenger car attempted to pass a semi in a roundabout. Act 139 makes roundabouts safer for all drivers.”

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