

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
For HB 4688

Compiled on: Wednesday, April 9, 2025 9:36 PM

Note: Comments received by the committee reflect only the view of the individual(s) submitting the comment, who retain sole responsibility for the content of the comment. Neither the committee nor the Texas House of Representatives takes a position on the views expressed in any comment. The committee compiles the comments received for informational purposes only and does not exercise any editorial control over comments.

Hearing Date: April 9, 2025 8:00 AM

Megan Ferril
Texas Towing & Storage Association / T-Miller Inc
Amarillo, TX

Please except my strong support of SB 4688. Thank you for your consideration of HB 4688.

KJ Pool
Neal Pool Rekers
Odessa, TX

I support this bill and would appreciate your support as well.

Ronny New
Texas Towing & Storage Association / Southside Wrecker
Austin, TX

I am here to support HB 4688. Thank you for your consideration.

John Esparza
Texas Trucking Association
Austin, TX

The biggest threat to the trucking industry today is the current state of our civil justice system and the fraud being exacted in our courts by a growing number of plaintiff's attorneys as a result. HB 4886 takes a big step in doing so and does not prohibit future victims of accidents from reaching the courtroom. In fact, we want these people to be compensated. We pay insurance for that purpose. This bill does not change that fact.

Alexis Reza, Mr.
SELF-INSURANCE AGENT
El Paso, TX

My name is Alexis Reza, I am the Director of BTC Insurance Services Inc. and I would like to express our strong support for HB 4688,

This bill focuses on the civil liability of commercial motor vehicle owners and operators and promises significant improvements in the legal framework governing our operations. The trucking industry is essential to the U.S. economy, and ensuring that it operates under a fair, predictable, and understandable legal framework is paramount. HB 4688 seeks to clarify civil liability, thereby protecting businesses, drivers, and the public. This clarification aids in risk management and better defines our responsibilities and liabilities. This legislation supports our commitment to high safety standards and helps prevent the trucking industry from being undermined by ambiguous legal liabilities that lead to costly and unnecessary litigation. Clear statutory guidelines will aid in compliance and enhance our ability to focus on safe and efficient operations. I urge the committee to recognize the benefits of this bill, not only to the trucking industry but to all who rely on our services for their daily needs and economic activities.

Brandon Woods
Refrigerated Transport Inc.
Flower Mound, TX

Good afternoon, I want to submit this comment in support of HB 4688 as Executive Vice President of Refrigerated Transport Inc., a small trucking company based out of Burleson, TX that has been in business since 1947 delivering food to grocery store distribution warehouses and food service companies across the state. Passage of this bill would continue to make the litigation process in Texas fair for both parties involved. We want the facts of the case to be on trial. We are not trying to get out of paying for damages when we are at fault and making that person whole. But we want the process to be fair and approached in a common sense way. This bill helps make that happen. The current environment in Texas is one where insurance companies do not want to do business in our state, and the ones that do charge a "Texas Premium" because of the fear of nuclear verdicts and the exploitation of small fender bender accidents that turn into settlements of \$100,000-\$250,000. Insurance rates in our state have reached levels where it is making it not profitable for small companies to do business. I want to make sure Refrigerated Transport Inc. is around for another 80 years delivering food to hard working Texans and providing jobs for hard working Texans. Passage of HB 4688 can help make that happen.

Thank you for all that you do for Texas!

Brandon Woods
6th Generation Texan
Executive Vice President
Refrigerated Transport Inc.

David Snapp
Service Transport Company
Houston, TX

As you consider legislation that impact our transportation industry, I urge you to keep in mind the many women, men and their supporting families. These professional drivers are the backbone of our supply chain, delivering goods day and night, weekends and holidays, through all conditions to keep our economy moving forward. Many spend long hours away from their homes and families and make personal sacrifices every day to ensure our shelves are stocked and manufacturing continues to operate. They deserve a fair voice in the policies that affect their livelihoods. Please support initiatives that preserve these essential workers.

Petra Azar
BTC
El Paso, TX

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David Reza
Btc
Laredo, TX

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Greg Harrington
Sleipnir Holdings LLC. dba Tyler Moving & Storage Inc.
Tyler, TX

We are fully supportive of changes reducing business owner risk. Our understanding of this bill is that it limits employer exposure to liability due to employee negligence and disregard of company policies, amongst other changes. This is a reasonable and fair clarification. Our insurance rates have gone up 40% in the last year with no claims, the last thing we need is a high risk lawsuit. Any tool you have at your disposal to limit our costs and risks directly allows us to provide better prices for Texans, and to hire more staff.

Don Stahurski
Texas Trucking Assoc. (TXTA) and 4Refuel
Grapevine, TX

HB 4688 builds on the improvements made in HB19 four years ago. It works to preserve a system that is just for everyone involved. Please keep in mind the human side of trucking. At my Texas company we have 60+ hardworking men and women behind the wheel who keep our economy moving forward each and every day! Fairness in our civil justice system matters, and when accidents happen, we all want to see victims treated with compassion and compensated appropriately. That's why we pay for insurance. This bill doesn't change that—it simply ensures that the system remains just for everyone involved. And our hardworking men and women aren't unfairly targeted and/or villainized.

Barry Detlefsen
Coastal Transport Co., Inc.
Cedar Park, TX

I am writing to express support for HB4688. Law suit reform is needed in Texas to decrease these run away nuclear verdict awards.

Robert McDowell
W M Dewey & Son, Inc.
Houston, TX

82% of all communities in Texas are served ONLY by trucks. Our Texas trucking company was founded in 1895 and our future is in jeopardy due to the escalating insurance premiums due to outrageous lawsuit settlements. We have an excellent safety record, but due to lawsuit abuse, we are one lawsuit away from being out of business. We have 73 families dependent on our company for jobs. HB 4688 will help defend us against lawsuit abuse.