

I'm here today asking this Board to become better stewards to the towing industry

For years, our industry has felt ignored, overregulated, and treated like an inconvenience instead of a necessary public safety partner. This Commission has been a bad steward to our industry, and it's starting to affect consumers.

Rotation towers are the companies responding at all hours of the night to major accidents, disabled vehicles, roadway hazards, DUI crashes, fatalities, and emergency situations that law enforcement depends on us to handle quickly and professionally.

When traffic is backed up on US-19 or I-275, we are the ones clearing the roadway so your constituents can get to work, get home to their families, or get to a hospital safely.

We are not asking for favors. We are asking for fairness.

Our operational costs have skyrocketed. Fuel, insurance, equipment, labor, compliance costs — everything has increased dramatically over the last several years.

Insurance alone has increased 30 to 50 percent for many operators.

Yet while every other industry adjusts pricing with inflation, towing companies are forced into years of waiting, hearings, delays, and bureaucracy just to request reasonable rate adjustments.

That is not good stewardship of an essential industry.

And the consequences are already showing.

Smaller operators are closing their doors. Experienced drivers are leaving the industry. Companies are struggling to maintain staffing and equipment while continuing to meet the demands of law enforcement and the public.

If this continues, consumers will feel it.

Longer wait times. Fewer available trucks. Slower roadway clearance. Reduced coverage during emergencies.

Essential industries cannot survive if they are continuously constrained while costs rise around them.

We need this Commission to recognize towing as the public safety partner it is, stop delaying necessary action, and start being better stewards to the small businesses that help keep Pinellas County moving every single day.