



ISSUE PAPER AND SAMPLE LETTER

What Is Assembly Bill 271 About?

This bill allows commercial trucks in Wisconsin to use camera systems instead of traditional mirrors—but only if those systems are approved by federal safety regulators.

Why Cameras Instead of Mirrors?

- Traditional mirrors can have blind spots.
- Camera systems offer **better visibility**, especially in poor weather or tight spaces.
- The **Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA)** already allows this at the national level.

What the Bill Changes:

Wisconsin law will now match federal rules, meaning:

- Trucking companies can legally use **FMCSA-approved camera systems** in place of mirrors.
- This applies only to **commercial motor vehicles** (not personal cars or pickups).

Impact on Wisconsin Trucking Companies:

- **Modernization:** Companies can upgrade fleets with advanced safety tech.
- **Cost Considerations:** Initial investment in camera systems may be high, but could reduce accidents and improve driver performance.
- **Legal Clarity:** Removes confusion between state and federal rules.

SAMPLE LETTER TO LAWMAKERS

Members of the Wisconsin State Legislature
Wisconsin State Capitol
Madison, WI 53703

Subject: Support for Assembly Bill 271 – Camera Monitor Systems for Commercial Vehicles

Dear Senator/Representative,

I am writing to express my strong support for **Assembly Bill 271**, which would allow commercial motor vehicles in Wisconsin to use **camera monitor systems** in place of

traditional mirrors, provided those systems are approved by the **Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA)**.

This bill represents a thoughtful and necessary step toward modernizing Wisconsin's transportation infrastructure. Camera systems offer **significant safety advantages** over traditional mirrors, including:

- **Reduced blind spots**, improving visibility for drivers in tight urban areas and during adverse weather conditions.
- **Enhanced situational awareness**, which can help prevent accidents and improve overall road safety.
- **Alignment with federal regulations**, eliminating confusion and ensuring consistency for trucking companies operating across state lines.

By updating state law to match federal standards, AB 271 empowers Wisconsin's trucking industry to invest in **advanced safety technologies** without fear of legal ambiguity. While the initial cost of upgrading fleets may be a consideration, the long-term benefits—fewer accidents, better driver performance, and potential insurance savings—make this a smart investment in public safety and economic efficiency.

I urge you to support this bill and help Wisconsin remain a leader in transportation innovation. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]