



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

|  |             |   |
|--|-------------|---|
| BILL NUMBER:<br><b>HB 2977</b>   |             | DATE:<br><b>1/27/2026</b>                 |
| COMMITTEE:<br><b>Transportation</b>  |             |   |
| <b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES |             |   |
| <b>WITNESS NAME</b>  |             |   |
| <b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>   |             |   |
| WITNESS NAME:<br><b>ARNIE C. AC "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF</b>   |             | PHONE NUMBER:                             |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:  |             | TITLE:                                    |
| ADDRESS:   |             |   |
| CITY:  |             | STATE:                  ZIP:              |
| EMAIL:   | ATTENDANCE: | SUBMIT DATE:<br><b>1/27/2026 12:00 AM</b> |
| <b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>  |             |   |



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| <b>WITNESS NAME</b>  |                               |  |                      |
| <b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>  |                               |  |                      |
| WITNESS NAME:<br><b>CHRISSEY GILLIS</b>  |                               | PHONE NUMBER:<br><b>660-947-3900</b>     |                      |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:<br><b>PUTNAM COUNTY ASSESSOR</b>   |                               | TITLE:<br><b>ASSESSOR</b>                |                      |
| ADDRESS:<br><b>1601 MAIN STREET RM 201</b>   |                               |  |                      |
| CITY:<br><b>UNIONVILLE</b>   |                               | STATE:<br><b>MO</b>                      | ZIP:<br><b>63565</b> |
| EMAIL:<br><b>assessor@nemr.net</b>   | ATTENDANCE:<br><b>Written</b> | SUBMIT DATE:<br><b>1/27/2026 4:10 PM</b> |                      |
| <b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>  |                               |  |                      |
| <b>Subject: Support for HB 2977</b>  |                               |  |                      |

As the Putnam County Assessor, I am writing to express my strong support for HB 2977, introduced by Representative Carolyn Caton. This legislation addresses a critical issue facing our county and the state: the intentional circumvention of Missouri's titling and registration requirements by residents who register their vehicles—particularly high-value motorhomes—in other states to avoid paying their fair share of sales and personal property taxes.

This practice directly impacts the local tax base that supports our schools, roads, and emergency services. HB 2977 provides the necessary tools to curb this behavior by:

- **Establishing Intent:** The bill defines clear factors to identify residents who register vehicles out of state with the intent to avoid Missouri taxes, such as maintaining a Missouri driver's license or storing the vehicle within our borders.
- **Targeting Shell Entities:** It specifically targets the use of "shell entities" created in other states for the sole purpose of evading Missouri's registration laws. For Assessors, this bill is important. It ensures that all vehicles operated by our residents are properly registered with the Missouri Department of Revenue, allowing us to accurately assess these assets and ensure equitable tax distribution.

I urge you to support HB 2977 to protect our local revenue and hold all Missouri vehicle owners to the same standard.



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| <b>WITNESS NAME</b>  |             |   |                      |
| <b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>  |             |   |                      |
| WITNESS NAME:<br><b>MIKE ATKINSON</b>  |             | PHONE NUMBER:<br><b>573-751-2992</b>      |                      |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:<br><b>DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE</b>  |             | TITLE:<br><b>ADMINISTRATOR CIB</b>        |                      |
| ADDRESS:<br><b>TRUMAN BLDG RM 670</b>  |             |   |                      |
| CITY:<br><b>JC</b>   |             | STATE:<br><b>MO</b>                       | ZIP:<br><b>65101</b> |
| EMAIL:   | ATTENDANCE: | SUBMIT DATE:<br><b>1/27/2026 12:00 AM</b> |                      |
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| <b>WITNESS NAME</b>  |                               |  |                      |
| <b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>  |                               |  |                      |
| WITNESS NAME:<br><b>PAUL D GARRISON</b>  |                               | PHONE NUMBER:<br><b>816-324-3624</b>     |                      |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:<br><b>ANDREW COUNTY ASSESSOR</b>   |                               | TITLE:<br><b>ANDREW COUNTY ASSESSOR</b>  |                      |
| ADDRESS:<br><b>PO BOX 149</b>  |                               |  |                      |
| CITY:<br><b>SAVANNAH</b>   |                               | STATE:<br><b>MO</b>                      | ZIP:<br><b>64485</b> |
| EMAIL:<br><b>assessor@andrewcountymo.gov</b>   | ATTENDANCE:<br><b>Written</b> | SUBMIT DATE:<br><b>1/27/2026 2:45 PM</b> |                      |
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Good afternoon, I'm the Andrew County Assessor. I support bill because we are one of the county's that have a big problem with out of state plates. Montana and South Dakota plates are everywhere in this are. South Dakota being the biggest problem. I would almost say that The car dealers might be part of the problem if they are educating the customers on avoiding personal property and sales tax. I do turn the plate numbers in when i find them. I shop a lot in Buchanan County and every parking lot has them in it. i was elected in 2012 and took over in 2013 and it was a problem then and is now gone threw the roof in the last few years. one problem i see is how to enforce a new law. we will need law enforcement to stop these cars, truck, 300K motor homes etc. and a prosecutor to charge them. the state has lost so much sales tax over the last 10 years it unbelievable. The assessors with these problems are here to help. Thanks for you time.



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| <b>WITNESS NAME</b>  |             |   |                      |
| <b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>  |             |   |                      |
| WITNESS NAME:<br><b>TRISH VINCENT</b>  |             | PHONE NUMBER:<br><b>573-751-2992</b>      |                      |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:<br><b>DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE</b>  |             | TITLE:<br><b>DIRECTOR</b>                 |                      |
| ADDRESS:<br><b>TRUMAN BLDG., ROOM 670</b>  |             |   |                      |
| CITY:<br><b>JC</b>   |             | STATE:<br><b>MO</b>                       | ZIP:<br><b>65101</b> |
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| <b>WITNESS NAME</b>  |                               |   |      |
| <b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>   |                               |   |      |
| WITNESS NAME:<br><b>SARAH BERRY</b>  |                               | PHONE NUMBER:                             |      |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:  |                               | TITLE:                                    |      |
| ADDRESS:   |                               |   |      |
| CITY:  |                               | STATE:                                    | ZIP: |
| EMAIL:   | ATTENDANCE:<br><b>Written</b> | SUBMIT DATE:<br><b>1/25/2026 11:23 PM</b> |      |

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**HB 2977 is being sold as an “anti-evasion” bill, but what it actually creates is a new enforcement pipeline that punishes people first and sorts it out later — with license suspension as the club.**

**This bill is packed with constitutional red flags:**

**Burden-shifting “rebuttable presumptions.” HB 2977 assumes wrongdoing based on ordinary life facts (having a Missouri license, storing a vehicle here, insuring it, etc.), then forces the citizen to prove innocence.**

**That’s backwards.**

**It cuts against due process protections under Mo. Const. Art. I, §10 and the 14th Amendment. Administrative punishment without meaningful judicial process. The Department can issue a notice, demand payment, then suspend a driver’s license if the person doesn’t comply. A driver’s license is a property interest in modern life — employment, medical care, childcare, survival.**

**Turning it into a tax-collection weapon raises serious due process concerns (Mo. Const. Art. I, §10; U.S. Const. amend. XIV).**

**Excessive and coercive penalties.**

**A flat \$500 penalty plus a 75% fine on unpaid amounts can become disproportionate fast, especially when honest disputes exist (dual residency, military families, students, out-of-state work, estate vehicles, business fleets, or lawful multi-state arrangements).**

**That implicates the ban on excessive fines (U.S. Const. amend. VIII; Mo. Const. Art. I, §21).**

**Privacy creep through database fishing.**

**HB 2977 explicitly authorizes the Department to use the motorist insurance identification database to identify and determine ownership for enforcement. That is a step toward surveillance-style compliance, not targeted fraud enforcement — and it invites errors, mismatches, and bureaucratic harassment.**

**Missourians should not have to live under “database suspicion” to drive a car.**

**If Missouri wants to address genuine fraud, the answer is narrow, targeted enforcement with clear definitions, real evidence standards, and fair hearings — not a presumption regime that pressures people to pay under threat of losing their license.**

**HB 2977 expands state power, weakens due process, and risks punishing lawful conduct and edge cases as “evasion.”**

**I urge the committee to vote NO.**



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| <b>WITNESS NAME</b>  |             |   |                      |
| <b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>  |             |   |                      |
| WITNESS NAME:<br><b>TOM CRAWFORD</b>   |             | PHONE NUMBER:<br><b>573-634-3388</b>      |                      |
| REPRESENTING:<br><b>MO TRUCKING ASSOCIATION</b>  |             | TITLE:                                    |                      |
| ADDRESS:<br><b>102 E HIGH ST.</b>  |             |   |                      |
| CITY:<br><b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>   |             | STATE:<br><b>MO</b>                       | ZIP:<br><b>65102</b> |
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