



## American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators

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Suite 1000, Tallahassee, FL 32304

Debra L. K. Smith, Executive Director  
Linda A. Smith, Deputy Executive Director

May 23, 2007

Lt. Jim Wells  
Equipment Compliance & Testing Officer  
Florida Division of Highway Patrol  
2900 Apalachee Parkway  
Neil Kirkman Building  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0500

Dear Lt. Wells,

In 1988, the Motor Vehicle Manufacturers Association (MVMA) recommended maximum bumper and frame heights for passenger vehicles. That same year, AAMVA established a policy to encourage jurisdictions to adopt the maximum bumper heights recommended by the MVMA. Ten years later in December 1998, our Association assembled the Altered-Height Vehicle Working Group to address safety concerns expressed by several jurisdictions about passenger vehicles equipped with aftermarket body/suspension lift kits and/or oversized replacement tires ("raised vehicles").

The Working Group included members from eight jurisdictions, from both Canada and the United States and representatives affiliated with the Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA), American Manufacturers Equipment Compliance Agency (AMECA), Hunter Engineering Inc. and Virginia Commonwealth University. As a working group, you explored measures that could be taken through testing, research, literature review, and the involvement of stakeholders to develop non-binding model legislation for raised vehicles. AAMVA's role in developing conducting this research was consistent throughout with the mission of our Vehicle Safety & Inspection (VS&I) Discipline, which is to promote uniform programs for compliance with accepted minimum standards for motor vehicle safety equipment.

Although the guiding principles for this effort were first and foremost public and highway safety, there was also an interest in ensuring that the model legislation was responsible, appropriately targeted and technically-supported. To support that position, the Working Group your served conducted low-speed brake tests to examine the effect oversized replacement tires could have on the braking performance and rollover propensity of excessively raised vehicles; perused technical literature; reviewed regulations; and petitioned comments about excessively raised vehicles from the AAMVA general membership. Your Working Group also took measures to:

An International Safety Association of Motor Vehicle and Law Enforcement Administrators

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quantify the crash risk of excessively raised vehicles and develop model legislation not in isolation, but in a collaborate effort together with organizations, manufacturers and other stakeholders with a vested interest in automotive equipment and highway safety. Those who participated in discussions to develop the model legislation represented law enforcement, motor vehicle administration, vehicle regulation, casualty insurance, and aftermarket tire and motor vehicle manufacturing industries. As a direct result of your efforts, model legislation was drafted, reviewed, posted for comment, reviewed and updated, and finally approved by the AAMVA Board of Directors. The model legislation you drafted was done so with the intent to assist jurisdictions who have an interest in refining current statutes or introduce new standards for regulating the excessive ride height of raised vehicles equipped with aftermarket body/suspension lift kits and/or oversize replacement tires.

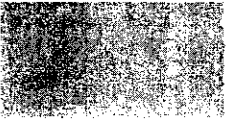
On behalf of the entire AAMVA community, I would personally like to thank you for your commitment, service and contribution to the Altered Height (Raised) Vehicle Working Group as well as to the Association as a whole. The work you did will contribute to the health and welfare of all those who travel our highways. Hopefully it will also contribute to the reduction of fatalities, serious injuries and crashes.

With great respect and admiration for your efforts,

Sincerely,



Michael R. Calvin  
Interim President and CEO



**American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators**  
**ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE**  
**VEHICLE SAFETY & INSPECTION DISCIPLINE**

MAY 23, 2007

**Certificate of Appreciation**

**Mr. Jim Wells**

IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE  
AAMVA ALTERED-HIGHT VEHICLE WORKING GROUP  
AND CONTRIBUTIONS THAT WERE MADE TO ASSIST  
DEVELOP MODEL LEGISLATION FOR RAISED VEHICLES.

Stephen J. Fritschinger  
Vice Chair, Enforcement

Denise Filadelfo  
Chair