



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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MAJOR VICTORY FOR MINNESOTA COMPANIES Auto Insurance Lobby Sneak Attack Defeated

“United we stand, divided we fall,” commented Rick Rosar, Independent Glass Association (IGA) Board Member and president of Rapid Glass in Minnesota concerning the successful defeat of an amendment to an omnibus bill (SF2096) that could have forced network pricing on all independent glass shops doing business in Minnesota.

If enacted, this legislation would have allowed insurance companies to only pay network prices, whether or not a glass company was a member of that network, a move that would have undermined section 72A201 of the Minnesota Unfair Claims Practices Act (UCPA).

“By the time we were alerted to what they were trying to do, the bill had already passed the house and the senate,” stated Rosar. “Luckily, the two versions of the bill didn't match up and therefore had to go to a conference committee before they could get to the Governor's desk.”

IGA members seized on the delay and rallied in force.

“There have not been many issues where I received so many personal visits, phone calls and e-mails,” Minnesota State Representative Bob Gunther (R) commented.

In great part due to the IGA Legislative Alert system, many independent glass shop owners and employees began contacting their legislators.

“Every legislator we visited said they had received numerous calls from constituents and would do whatever they could to help,” added Mike Schmaltz, executive director of the Minnesota Glass Association (MGA). “Our primary goal was to kill the bad amendment, but with so much support we decided to take it one step further, and introduce our own amendment.”

The actions of the IGA, MIAGA, MGA and independent shop owners caused the insurance lobby to withdraw its aggressive amendment and take a more compromising approach.

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“We seized the momentum and that scared them. This shows the power of coming together in strength and numbers,” said Rosar. “Don't let the few carry the water for the masses. Many people say, ‘I don't need to get involved, those other guys will get it done.’ This is the farthest from the truth. The ‘other guys’ may lead the charge, but they need your strength, your contacts, and your support.”

The IGA would like to thank all those who contact their state representatives upon hearing of this legislation especially to Rick Rosar and Mike Schmaltz for all their hard work and long hours.

The IGA is the only association dedicated to the needs of the independent glass companies in North America. Its members are also dedicated to the professional and ethical installation of glass in a safe and proper manner. IGA members are located in all 50 states and ten countries.

For more information regarding IGA membership visit www.iga.org.

For more information regarding Rapid Glass visit rapidglass.com.

