

January 27, 2016



**Coca-Cola Bottling Co. of the Lehigh Valley
Senate Transportation Hearing
Testimony – Clearing Snow & Ice from Vehicles**

Six years ago, company executive Joe Brake tasked managers at Coca-Cola Bottling Co. of the Lehigh Valley to come up with a solution.

The result was a frame-like contraption fashioned from scrap steel that the Bethlehem-based company uses to scrape snow and ice from the tops of its tractor-trailers.

This is the sixth winter the bottling plant and distribution center near routes 22 and 378 has deployed the device, which is meant to avoid sending projectiles toward other motorists on the highways.

Most people probably don't even know we have it. We don't necessarily promote it. It's just doing the right thing by our people in contributing to the safety of our community.

Coca-Cola Bottling Co. came up with the design after seeing a similar device used to clean buses in the Parkland School District outside Allentown.

We came back and adopted that idea and built it ourselves. We had some steel left over from our production equipment and our maintenance manager fabricated it himself.

Just on the other side of the plant's entrance gate, truckers drive under the frame before hitting the road after a snowstorm. A rubberized wedge at the top clears snow from trailer rooftops as trucks slowly drive through.

It took about three weeks to build.

Our fleet mechanic sets the height and the drivers run through it. It gets as close as possible to the roof, removing all but about a half-inch of the snow. The little bit that's left usually melts right off with a little bit of sun. It's a real quick, simple operation.

Coca-Cola's move was in response to a recommendation from Pennsylvania Sen. Lisa Boscola, who has urged highway safety and drafted bills aimed at toughening laws for those who don't clear their vehicles of ice and snow.

Boscola took up the cause after a tragic accident eight years ago in which a Palmer Township woman died after snow and ice dislodged from a tractor-trailer on Route 209 near Jim Thorpe, Pa., and crashed through her minivan's windshield.

Coca-Cola Bottling Company of the Lehigh Valley

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Coca-Cola Bottling Co. of the Lehigh Valley fashioned pieces of steel to make a scraper to clear snow and ice from the tops of tractor-trailers.

Coca-Cola Bottling Co. uses the snow scraper on its 10 tractor-trailers but still clears its side-loader trucks by hand. The company takes pride in its commitment to safety.

Joe Brake came to us and challenged us to think in terms of continuous improvement, coming up with simple solutions to make us more efficient. With his being an influential person and our company being part of the community, we certainly wanted to be the ones to take an active approach in terms of people's safety.

Boscola, D-Northampton/Lehigh, was instrumental in passage of a law after the 2005 death of Christine Lambert that enabled fines against certain drivers. Lambert's family helped lobby lawmakers to make it a crime for snow or ice to fall from a moving vehicle and cause death or serious bodily injury.

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