

TESTIMONY OF

Brian Parke

L.D. 2148, “An Act to Establish Common Carrier Reporting for the Direct Shipment of Wine”



Good morning, Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and members of the Committee On Veterans and Legal Affairs. My name is Brian Parke and I am the President and CEO of the Maine Motor Transport Association and a resident of Brunswick. The Association is comprised of more than 1,740-member companies, whose employees make up a large portion of the 34,000 people who make their living in the trucking industry in Maine.

I am here to testify neither for nor against LD 2148 in its current form because, on one hand we support the concept and practice of compliance, but on the other hand this bill creates some practical problems for our common carrier members.

As we testified to with LD 1695, our members are not opposed to reporting as long as the data elements being required are standard data elements they capture now. However, asking common carriers to know the quantity being shipped of any commodity inside a sealed box is impossible. And in some instances, the direct shipper data element might not be available if the shipment is done by a fulfillment company that ships on behalf of many different wineries – because the fulfillment company would be the customer, not the licensed direct shipper.

The members we have heard from on this bill are also concerned with the signature retention requirement for various reasons.

Due to the significance of these issues, we would recommend BABLO connect with common carriers to refine the bill so that it reflects the data elements that are currently and commonly collected for direct wine shipments and address the signature retention requirement in Section 4 of the bill.

Thank you for allowing me to testify and share our member concerns on the bill. I would be happy to answer any questions the committee has now or at the Work Session.