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March 16, 2023

Senator Benjamin M. Chipman, Chair
Representative Lynne A. Williams, Chair
Transportation Committee
State House, Room 126
Augusta, ME 04333

RE: LD 623 - An Act to Modify Maine Motor Vehicle Inspection Standards to Permit Nonstructural Corrosion That Does Not Directly Affect the Passenger Compartment

LD 746 - An Act to Modernize the State's Vehicle Inspection System by Requiring Inspections Biennially and Allowing for an Electronic Inspection Program

Dear Senator Chipman and Representative Williams:

The American Property and Casualty Insurance Association submits this testimony in opposition to LDs 623 and 746, both of which would weaken Maine's current inspection laws.¹ Maine's inspection program results in safer cars and saves lives. This issue has been raised a number of times before this Committee. In the 130th Legislature the Committee reviewed LDs 284, 354, 388, 431, 490, 565 and 712. In the 129th Legislature the bills were LDs 110, 117, 270 and 389. Similar bills have been proposed before in a number of prior legislatures. The benefits of Maine's inspection laws include, among other things, lower insurance costs and safer motor vehicles.

The value of inspection laws is confirmed by a study conducted by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation in March of 2009.

The Executive Summary states:

*This report describes the activities and results for the Vehicle Safety Inspection Program (VSIP) Effectiveness Study...performed by Cambridge Systematics, Inc. (CS) on behalf of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT). The research considered the effectiveness of vehicle safety inspections on the number of fatal crashes, and the cost-effectiveness of the program compared to the cost of inspections to the owners of Pennsylvania registered vehicles. **The results of the research clearly demonstrate that the Vehicle Safety Inspection program in Pennsylvania is effective and saves lives.***

(Emphasis in original.)

¹ APCIA does not oppose the provisions in LD 746 that allow for an electronic inspection program, but does oppose the remainder of the bill.

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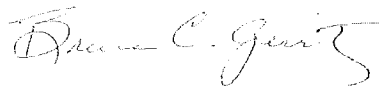
The entire report is available at:

http://www.dot7.state.pa.us/BPR_PDF_FILES/Documents/Research/Complete%20Projects/Operations/Vehicle%20Safety%20Inspection%20Program%20Effectiveness.pdf

Currently Maine enjoys what the Bureau of Insurance calls “the Trifecta.” Maine has one of the lowest uninsured motorist percentages in the nation (+/- 4.5%). It has the second or third lowest premiums and it has the highest minimum mandated insurance limits in the country. In part, these enviable rankings are the product of Maine’s inspection laws. Simply put, cars that are able to pass annual inspections are safer, result in fewer mechanical failures and fewer accidents.

The Association respectfully urges the Committee to vote LD 623 and section 1 of LD 746 out Ought Not To Pass.

Respectfully submitted



Bruce C. Gerrity

BCG:apl