



**TESTIMONY OF
Timothy S. Doyle
ON
L.D. 2072, "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Motor
Vehicles"**

Good afternoon, Senator Chipman, Representative Crafts, and members of the Transportation Committee. My name is Tim Doyle and I am the Vice President of Maine Motor Transport Association. The Association is comprised of over 1,700-member companies, whose employees comprise a large portion of the nearly 34,000 people who make their living in the trucking industry in Maine.

I am here today to testify in support of one provision of this bill, specifically Section 24, dealing with the FMCSA Clearinghouse. We are neither for nor against the other changes proposed in this bill.

Beginning on January 6, 2020 all motor carriers that employ CDL drivers have been required to query the FMCSA Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse database prior to permitting new employees to drive vehicles that require a CDL license. This database contains the names and license information for CDL drivers who have previously tested positive for controlled substances or alcohol, or have otherwise violated the regulations with respect to testing and are therefore listed as "prohibited" from driving. Drivers listed as prohibited must not be

allowed to operate CDL vehicles. Motor carriers are also required to perform (at least) annual queries of the database to ensure the drivers remain eligible to drive.

Since inception, however, drivers who are listed as “prohibited” from driving have not had their CDL driving privileges “downgraded” by the State Licensing Authority. This “downgrade” is now required by FMCSA beginning November 18, 2024.

The Association strongly supports highway safety. The downgrading of drivers who test positive not only complies with federal regulations, but should also serve to bolster highway safety. Our only concern regarding the new requirement is that the reversal of the downgrade be immediate when CDL drivers complete the regulatory process whereby they are no longer listed as “prohibited” and therefore eligible to drive again. We have been assured by Maine BMV that will be the case.

Thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.