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TO: Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

RE: LD 320 – An Act to Repeal Certain Motor Vehicle Inspection Requirements

Good Afternoon, Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and Members of the Transportation Committee. My name is Tom Brown, President of the Maine Automobile Dealers Association, the state-wide organization of the franchised new car and truck dealers in Maine, all of which are members of MADA. All MADA members are also licensed safety inspection stations, with most of the technicians employed at over 200 locations in Maine being certified inspection mechanics.

MADA testifies in **Opposition to LD 320**. The proposal would repeal various provisions of Maine law which address disclosure of information pertaining to the condition of vehicles customers might be interested in purchasing as well as change or repeal current requirements on the safety inspection of vehicles available to customers.

MADA supports the annual safety inspection of motor vehicles, which we believe benefits all Maine citizens. Miles driven and type of driving, combined with the condition of various roads on which we travel, are important factors to the safe operation of vehicles. The variety of weather we experience and the chemicals we use to treat our roads accelerate the deterioration of concrete and pavement, lead to pot holes, frost heaves and uneven road surfaces, and added to miles driven, result in significant wear and tear on motor vehicles. While vehicle owners can readily see windshield wipers, glass, and headlights, the deterioration of braking systems, fuel and brake lines, exhaust systems, tire wear and undercarriage corrosion are factors which automotive service professionals should be reviewing annually to help the safe operation of motor vehicles.

LD 320 seeks to eliminate the standards for safety inspection in Section 1751, but leaves Maine State Police rules as the requirement for dealers when they sell a vehicle. Inspections for vehicles which are sold through licensed new and used vehicle dealerships will require an inspection, but private sales, which are significant in number and generally involve well-used vehicles, are not required to have inspections when those vehicles change ownership. The changes in this proposal potentially put Maine in violation of the federal Clean Air Act because of the elimination of checks of on-board diagnostic systems, catalytic converters and gas filler pipe restrictors. The proposal appears to add inspection of some currently inspection-exempt vehicles, when sold through dealerships, with the repeal of section 1752. Lastly, these changes would result in a loss of revenue to the Highway Fund due to the elimination of various safety inspections.

Thank you for the opportunity to express MADA's **Opposition to LD 320**. I would be pleased to try and answer any questions.