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TO: Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

RE: LDs 566 and 667 – Acts to Modernize the State Motor Vehicle Inspection Program and Amend the Law Governing Inspection Fees

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.

MADA testifies in **SUPPORT of LDs 566 and 667**. The proposals allow the opportunity for an electronic inspection process at the discretion of the inspection station and its certified inspection technicians. We understand that similar programs already operate in other states, including our neighboring state, New Hampshire.

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. A number of dealerships already utilize electronic systems for repair and maintenance work by their technicians, using tablets similar to those utilized in electronic safety inspection programs. It would be an easy transition by technicians in many franchised dealerships to move to an electronic safety inspection process.

An electronic system would offer efficiencies and benefits to our customers, our technicians and the Maine State Police. Customers would receive written information and possibly pictures concerning the inspection of their vehicle, technicians would have less paperwork to manage, and Maine State Police reporting would be more timely and consistent in content.

Both LDs propose an increase in the fee chargeable by the inspection station, a fee which has not changed in 24 years. An inspection takes 20-25 minutes on average, and labor costs have certainly risen significantly in 24 years. Any increase would be welcome.

Thank you for the opportunity to express MADA's **SUPPORT of LD 566 and 667**. I would be pleased to try and answer any questions.