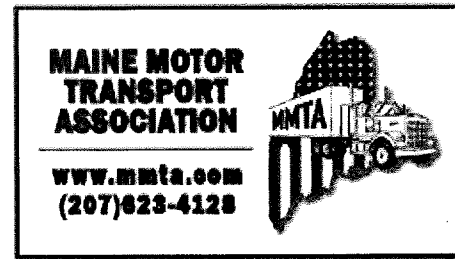# TESTIMONY OF
## Brian Parke
## L.D. 1470, "An Act to Create a Liaison Program to Self-insured Entities and Consumers"

Good afternoon, Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services. 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 1,870 member companies, whose employees make up a large portion of the almost 34,000 people who make their living in the trucking industry in Maine.

I am also the Trust Administrator of our group self-insurance program, the MMTA Workers' Compensation Trust and I am here today to testify in opposition to LD 1470 in that capacity. However, we understand the sponsor's intent with this bill would alleviate all of our concerns if it is amended accordingly.

As presented, LD 1470 would be completely unnecessary for workers' compensation self-insurers and would likely cause confusion with consumers – whether we are talking about injured employees, members of self-insured groups, vendors, medical providers, or anyone else involved in the workers' compensation process depending upon the type of disagreement. There are already multiple remedies for disputes in the workers' comp. system, including a group self-insurer's governing body, the Bureau of Insurance who regulates WC self-insurance through Title 39-A and Rule chapter 250, and the Workers' Compensation Board who regulates claim disputes through its dispute resolution process.

After speaking with the bill's sponsor and explaining our concerns, Rep. Poirier made it clear to me that the purpose of the bill was not to have a liaison program for workers' comp. self-insurers. And if this intent amends the bill to remove "workers' compensation" in line 7 of Section 1, then we withdraw our opposition to the bill.

Thank you for your consideration and for allowing us to testify today. I would be happy to answer any questions the committee has throughout this process.