

**Scott Hatch**

**Vice President, Towing and Recovery Association of Maine**

Dear Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and Distinguished Members of the Transportation Committee,

My name is Scott Hatch, and I serve as Vice President of the Towing and Recovery Association of Maine. I'm here today to speak in support of LD 1377.

LD 1377 takes a positive step toward improving communication, transparency, and coordination between the towing industry, various industries and state agencies. As professionals tasked with responding to some of the most dangerous and complex roadside situations, we appreciate the Legislature's willingness to prioritize safety, professionalism, and accountability in our field through a collaborative process, rather than a mandated top-down approach to regulation.

As part of this process, we respectfully request that the Committee consider two minor changes to the working group. First, we want to ensure that our Association be able to provide suggested names of individuals to the Secretary of State who are best suited to represent our interests to the working group. Our Association is working hard to improve the relationships between towing companies and various entities across the State, and we want to ensure we have a productive conversation with stakeholders.

Second, we would urge the Committee to consider adding a member of the Committee that specializes in recovery to be included in the working group. Recovery work often goes beyond the standard practice of transporting a non-drivable vehicle. It often involves removing vehicles from challenging or hazardous situations, involves heavy-duty operations, highway incidents, and emergency responses that differ significantly from towing. Including a voice with this specialized expertise will ensure the full scope of our industry is represented.

The Towing and Recovery Association of Maine is committed to coming to the table and working collaboratively with all stakeholders to improve outcomes for the motoring public, our first responder partners, and the businesses that support roadside safety and efficiency.

Thank you for your time and for your support of LD 1377.

Sincerely,

Scott Hatch

President, Towing and Recovery Association of Maine