

Brian Markey
Kenduskeag

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Senator Diamond, Representative Martin and Members of the Transportation Committee,

I am a member of the Maine Service Employees Association, Local 1989 of the Service Employees International Union, writing as a union member and as a private citizen, in support of LD 252, An Act to Expand Training Opportunities for Department of Transportation Workers, sponsored by Representative Mark Bryant. This legislation would create and fund new Driver Trainer positions within the Maine Department of Transportation over the next two years. These Driver Trainer positions are desperately needed, so please join me in supporting LD 252.

I am a Transportation Worker 3 for the MDOT who spends lots of time taking fellow new hires from a regular class C license to the required class B. Many people specifically request me as a mentor due to the fact that I used to be an Army master driver and also have great patience.

One new hire in particular never got the chance to meet with a Driver Trainer at all. On my own, I did all the training and personally took him to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles for his test from which he passed.

There is a very large gap in the Driver Trainer to employee ratio. I'm only talking trucks here; there also are countless pieces of MDOT equipment that also require a Driver Trainer. If there were a better-staffed training program, there would be far less damage to the equipment and also to the public infrastructure from people trying to self-teach.

More driver trainers are needed. LD 252 addresses this issue. Again, please support LD 252. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Brian Markey
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