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### **Testimony in Support of LD 645**

Good afternoon, Senator Diamond, Representative Martin, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Transportation Committee. My name is Tom Brown and I am President of the Maine Automobile Dealers Association, the statewide organization of 116 franchised new car and truck dealerships with nearly 6000 employees in all parts of Maine. Our dealerships sell and service new as well as used vehicles, with sales volume of nearly 125,000 units annually.

MADA strongly supports the passage of LD 645.

The title to a motor vehicle is an important document for vehicle owners, dealerships and lienholders. It is vitally important that a timely and efficient system be in place to process title applications and related material. Over the past year, the current processing system available to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, vehicle owners, dealerships and lienholders has proven to be in need of a significant investment in currently-available technology.

With the several month shutdown of BMV operations, the slow return to current staffing, and a vehicle sales volume which was surprisingly strong under the circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic, we find ourselves with long delays between title application submission and the receipt of a new or updated title. BMV personnel have been working hard at this backlog created through no fault of theirs, but it is extremely difficult to catch up.

The computer systems in place today at MADA dealerships and financial institutions which offer motor vehicle financing are capable of sending and receiving title documents and sales-related material in a very efficient manner. BMV systems need significant upgrades to match these capabilities. The result would be a process which reduces time and expense for all involved, not only in title processing but in other aspects of BMV operations.

MADA looks forward to the opportunity to work with this Committee, BMV, lienholders and other affected parties to identify and implement currently-available technology which could aid BMV in their transition to a more efficient, less-costly operating system.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our strong support for LD 645.

*Tom Brown*