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March 7, 2022

RE: Support for Senate File 3680

Members of the Senate Transportation Finance and Policy Committee:

On behalf of MADA and its franchised new car and truck dealers, we wholeheartedly support the changes in Senate File 3680.

For the past couple of months, our office has fielded dozens of calls from dealerships where employees have lost permanent access to Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS) motor vehicle records because they looked up their own record – or that of a family member or other employee. The loss of access often means these employees lose their job – as their role is contingent on being able to access the records system to process vehicle sales transactions.

In almost every scenario, the fact case is the same: the employee looked up the record for a legitimate business purpose. The MNDRIVE system now pushes the front end of the title and registration application process onto the dealership. If an employee, or family member of an employee, wants to purchase a vehicle from the dealership where they work, but DVS policy prevents them from accessing the system to process the deal, how is the transaction supposed to happen?

Minnesota Stat. Sec. 171.12 Subd. 1b was enacted as part of the Real ID legislation at a time when numerous, high-profile news stories about unauthorized look-ups of DVS data were being reported. Immediate and permanent revocation to DVS records may have seemed like the appropriate response at the time but is now having serious consequences on dealership personnel who are accessing the system to do their job and are unaware of the DVS policy against looking-up themselves, family or other employees.

Senate File 3680 strikes the right balance, as it ensures users accessing the system to process legitimate transactions are not penalized, while maintaining the agency's authority to immediately and permanently revoke access to those using the system for nefarious purposes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Amber L. Backhaus'.

Amber L. Backhaus  
Vice President of Public Affairs