



April 4, 2022

Senator Scott Newman
Chair, Senate Transportation Committee
3105 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Newman:

On behalf of the members of the Minnesota Trucking Association, I submit this letter in support of the third-party commercial drivers' license (CDL) testing provisions contained in Senate File 1154.

Expanding third-party testing authority to private truck driver training schools will add much needed capacity to address the critical shortage of professional drivers facing the trucking industry.

According to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, Minnesota is currently facing a shortage of 5,285 commercial truck drivers. Nationally, the number is 80,000 and projected to grow to 160,000 by 2030.

Such expanded authority should reduce the time between finishing federally mandated training and getting behind the wheel as licensed professional truck driver.

20 other states currently allow private truck driver training schools to conduct third-party testing. These states demonstrate that Minnesota will also be able to ensure testing integrity and license only those truly qualified to drive a commercial motor vehicle.

We believe passage of this bill will provide the critical road, bridge and workforce infrastructure necessary to serve Minnesota's vital supply chain to meet the needs of our citizens.

Sincerely,

John Hausladen
President
Minnesota Trucking Association