

## Transportation Committee

March 6, 2009

Hi, my name is Carlo Guerra; I am a member of the Connecticut State Police and have been for about 17 years. I am currently assigned to the State Police Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Team also known as the "Truck Squad" for the past 11 years.

I am here today regarding HB No. 6393 a proposal to remove 21 state troopers from the truck enforcement program and to redeploy them to other patrol duties and have the Department of Motor Vehicles take control of all weigh station operations.

My concern, as a state trooper and as a citizen of this great state, is that removing 21 state troopers from the truck safety inspection program is not in the best interest for the citizens of this great State of Connecticut. Looking at it from a public safety point of view, did we already forget about the Avon Mountain crash or the oil tanker roll-over in East Lyme on I-95 that took four lives? What is the message that we are sending the public if we cut the entire truck enforcement program in half? The Department of Motor Vehicles currently has 25 inspectors dedicated to the inspection program, and the Connecticut State Police has 21 state troopers dedicated to this program. If we remove 21 state troopers from this program we are literally cutting truck enforcement program in half.

Everyone keeps saying that we have duplication in state agencies, but we really don't. The two agencies actually have two different objectives but one common goal. The common goal is to remove unsafe trucks from our highways. The Department of Motor Vehicles is the lead agency for the MCSAP inspection program, which is to conduct truck inspections and make sure that trucking companies are in compliance with the Federal Motor Carrier Regulations.

The Department of Public Safety, Division of State Police's main objective is "Oversize & Overweight" enforcement, which has been put on us by the Department of Transportation who is the lead agency for the "Oversize & Overweight" enforcement program. The state police also conducts MSCAP inspections and these inspections count towards the Department of Motor Vehicles in order to meet their mandate. Together these two agencies conduct approximately 20,000 MCSAP inspections. If these inspections diminish in numbers, the Department of Motor Vehicles will lose federal funding for this safety inspection program.

If we were to remove 21 state troopers from this equation, the Department of Motor Vehicles would have to make up the difference in inspections that the 21 state troopers conducted in order to still qualify for federal funding for the MCSAP inspection program, plus take on the responsibility for the "Oversize & Overweight" enforcement program that is federally mandated for the State of Connecticut to continue to receive federal money for our highway maintenance. Also the federal funding for the MCSAP inspection program may not be used to support the "Oversize & Overweight" enforcement program.

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I don't believe this is the time to cut back on truck inspections, if anything we should be increasing our forces to conduct truck inspections. Having state troopers in the truck enforcement program also allows the troops around the state to call on our resources;

- We respond to truck accidents and assist them with their truck accident investigations,
- We conduct Heavy duty wrecker inspections to make sure the companies are properly qualified and equip to maintain their status on the rotation call-out list to assist the state police to remove tractor trailers from the scene of an accidents or that are broken down,
- We assist road troopers who pull over truckers who commit traffic violations, and
- In bad weather conditions such as snow, sleet, heavy rain, or ice storms we assist the troops with accident investigations.

I feel these two agencies complement each other in a great way. We conduct many joint enforcement operations, we attend "In-Service Training" for Federal Motor Carrier Regulations updates together, and we rely on each other's resources. There have been times where they would ask us for our assistance in utilizing our portable scales we carry to weigh vehicles roadside.

Like I said earlier; The Department of Motor Vehicles receives federal funding for their Motor Carrier Safety Inspection Program. Those numbers come mostly from the Department of Motor Vehicles but also get greatly supplemented by the Connecticut State Police "Truck Squad". If the safety enforcement program diminishes in any way the state could lose millions of dollars in federal funding for the Motor Carrier Inspection Program.

If Department of Motor Vehicles should assume the responsibilities of all weight activities (fixed and portable scales) as mandated by the Department of Transportation's "Oversize & Overweight" enforcement. DMV personnel must achieve these levels of "Weights" currently performed by the Connecticut State Police "Truck Squad" (21 state troopers). I honestly don't think that anyone can produce the work of 46 people with only 25 workers that is humanly impossible!