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MTAC MOTOR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT, INC.

**Statement of Michael J. Riley
President**

**MICHAEL J. RILEY
PRESIDENT**

**Motor Transport Association of Connecticut
Before**

**The Joint Committee on Labor and Public Employees
March 5, 2013**

Re: House Bill No. 6554 AN ACT CONCERNING
UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

I am Michael J. Riley, President of Motor Transport Association of Connecticut (MTAC), a statewide trade association, which represents around 800 companies that operate commercial motor vehicles in and through the state of Connecticut. Our membership includes freight haulers, movers of household goods, construction companies, distributors, tank truck operators and hundreds of companies that use trucks in their business and firms that provide goods and services to truck owners.

MTAC SUPPORTS AN AMENDMENT TO THIS BILL

On the agenda today the Committee has several bills of a general nature which might provide vehicles for issues at a later date. I would like to ask the Committee to consider amending this bill to address a situation which is unfairly burdening certain Connecticut employers of truck drivers who are disadvantaged for complying with the law.

The trucking industry is subject to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations which require the loss of a driver's Commercial Drivers License (CDL) if he is convicted of driving a commercial motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs. In this instance, the Department has assured me that this misconduct in the course of employment will result in the driver being ineligible to receive unemployment compensation benefits.

I come to you today to request your help in a similar situation with a different outcome. If a holder of a CDL is convicted of a DUI in a passenger vehicle, he loses both his regular drivers license and his CDL. In this case, according to the Department, inasmuch as the misconduct occurred outside the course of employment, the driver may be granted unemployment compensation benefits. The employer's experience rating is affected and his unemployment assessments increase all because he complied with the law.



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Without getting into the details of these cases, I would like to ask this committee to consider adding circumstances where a CDL driver loses his license because of a DUI in a passenger vehicle, that that not be considered a chargeable event when calculating the employers experience rate.

If the committee is interested in pursuing this, I would like very much to work with your staff to draft the appropriate language.

Thank you.