

MAINE MOTOR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION

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"The spokesman for the Maine Trucking Industry"

Sent Via Email

March 23, 2020

The Honorable Janet T. Mills
Office of the Governor
#1 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0001

Dear Governor Mills,

First, thank you for all that you and your administration are doing to mitigate the corona virus outbreak in our State. These are, to say the least, challenging times that require decisive leadership.

As you know, the Trucking Industry in Maine is on the front lines of keeping our country supplied during this emergency. Our drivers are reporting to work each day to supply the goods that our country needs to feed and keep families safe, and to supply businesses that remain open to serve our citizens. Our drivers and other professionals do this despite the hardships that they are facing on a daily basis as they perform their jobs.

I write to you to formally request immediate actions that you can and should take that would alleviate concern and impediment to our industry getting the job done that is needed during this time:

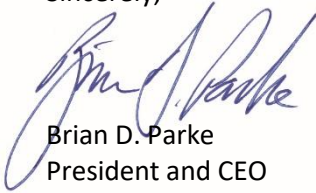
- Make available personal protective equipment for our drivers who deliver food and other essentials in Maine and across the country.
- Extend the expiration of all credentials, permits, and licenses related to the trucking industry for 30 days after the expiration of your declaration of civil emergency. This would include CDL's, CDL-P's, commercial registrations, IRP registrations, IFTA, OS/OW permits, and Maine fuel decals.
- Delay the downgrade of a CDL credential for any CDL driver unable to self-certify due to the expiration of their medical card for the period of the civil emergency and 30 days afterward.
- Authorize 14-day temporary registrations to be utilized in commerce while loaded with passengers or property and extend their expiration until 30 days after the expiration of the civil state of emergency.
- Authorize the Secretary of State's Office to issue temporary registrations via email for commercial vehicles sold in private sales the period of the civil emergency and an additional 30 days. These temporary registrations would have the same status as 14-day plates issued by dealers.

Maine Motor Transport Association is receiving calls on a daily basis from members who have purchased new commercial vehicles but are unable to register them as Maine BMV and Municipalities are closed. These all represent new trucks that could be used to put people to work and supply our state and country, but remain parked until a decision is made regarding the waiving of registration requirements during this emergency. Failing to act immediately not only impedes small business, but also adds to the delay of the transportation of necessary goods to market at a time they are desperately needed.

I have been communicating with your Administration since the beginning of this emergency with hope that steps would be taken before now to address the concerns that we outline. We understand that there are many moving pieces and a number of priorities that need to be assessed and addressed. We urge you to immediately address the concerns outlined above.

Also, if you consider closing non-essential businesses as a strategy to further stop the spread of COVID-19, we ask that you keep in mind the essentiality of the trucking industry and the service businesses relied upon to keep relief supplies moving. We have yet to learn of a single state that has not made trucking's essentiality clear in their emergency orders and we ask you for the same consideration when the time comes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brian D. Parke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and "P".

Brian D. Parke
President and CEO
bparke@mta.com