

MAINE MOTOR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION

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"The spokesman for the Maine Trucking Industry"

November 17, 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 team are doing during this difficult time in our State and Nation's history. Leading our State during a pandemic was likely the last thing on your mind as you took office, but we appreciate your efforts to do what you believe is best to keep the citizens of Maine safe and healthy.

I write today as news of a vaccine for COVID-19 begins to circulate widely and with it brings hope that 2021 will be a better and more healthy year for all of us. We are aware that you are in the planning stage for distribution and administration of the vaccine once approved. The draft of your vaccination plan lays out the priorities for vaccination of our citizens. We also know that the supply is likely to be limited initially. On behalf of the trucking industry I would like to clarify where our industry's essential workers are in terms of priority so that we can inform our 1,600 members appropriately.

I'm sure you will agree that truck drivers and those that keep our trucks running safely have been important to the delivery of the essential goods that our state and nation requires. Day after day, our members deliver food, medicine, and everyday staples to grocery stores, hospitals, pharmacies and directly to Mainer's homes. This pandemic has certainly highlighted their importance. Over 80 percent of the goods in our state move by truck, and your plan seems to recognize this by designating Phase 2 to include **"Critical risk workers: workers who are both in industries essential to functioning of society and at substantially high risk of exposure."**

It is my strong opinion that the trucking industry, our drivers and our support personnel are both essential to the functioning of society and are also at high risk of exposure. It is for these reasons that I respectfully request clarification that our drivers and support personnel will be eligible as Phase 2 for receipt of the vaccine once approved.

Sincerely,



Brian D. Parke

President & CEO

Maine Motor Transport Association

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