

MAINE MOTOR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION

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“The spokesman for the Maine Trucking Industry”

January 26, 2022

The Honorable Susan Collins
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Angus King
133 Hart Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chellie Pingree
2162 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Jared Golden
1222 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Maine Congressional Delegation,

On behalf of the Maine Motor Transport Association and our more than 1,700 member companies, I write today as a continuation of our September 2021 letter regarding the Biden Administration’s OSHA vaccine mandate for employers with more than 100 employees. Like that misguided mandate, the vaccine mandate for truck drivers crossing the border from Canada will have numerous unintended consequences that are already being felt by Maine companies, Maine citizens and the national supply chain.

In an effort to quantify the negative implications, MMTA reached out to our members and asked them how the Canadian border vaccine mandate for truckers is impacting them. A quick response from a subset of our members showed the following that we wanted to share with you so you know how your constituents are impacted:

- 11 responses received – 5 were not impacted as they do not travel to Canada.
- Unvaccinated rate of the six companies impacted averaged 60%.
- Number of total drivers employed by six companies – 253.
- Commodities impacted – fuel oil, propane, pulp, pork, paper, fish feed, kelp, wood, wood pellets, asphalt.
- Direct revenue loss – \$5.8 million annually from the 6 companies impacted.
- Indirect revenue loss will result as a loss of work in Canada i.e businesses supplying/supporting motor carriers delivering to Canada.
- Loss of business – loss of existing business and not able to take in new business.
- Motor carriers report damage to their reputation impacting future business endeavors in Canada. Impacts relationships that have existed for decades.

- Canadian suppliers and manufacturers relying on US motor carriers to deliver their product in the US are impacted and will have to seek other delivery options, which may never return to US companies.
- Paper production in US impacted because Maine Mills rely on Canadian materials in the production of certain grades of paper.

As you can see, there are immediate impacts from this cross-border vaccine mandate that are hitting Mainers in direct and significant ways. We urgently ask that you use any influence you have to get the Biden Administration to exempt truck drivers from this vaccine mandate. We believe that if the United States leads the way to exempt truck drivers from our foreign national mandate, the Canadians will reciprocate with the proper negotiations.

None of this is a statement of whether the trucking industry supports or opposes vaccines. Regardless of political preferences when it comes to vaccine mandates and the proactive intentions of such a policy, we believe the unintended negative consequences will be felt in the supply chain accordingly. As you know, the trucking industry has kept our shelves stocked, our medicines delivered and our families fed during this pandemic. This mandate will unnecessarily cause disruption at a time when our highway heroes need consistency and predictability.

Sincerely,

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

Brian Parke
President and CEO
bparke@mmta.com