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June 26, 2021

The Honorable Evan P. Shanley
Chairman
House Committee on State Government and Elections
State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: 2021- H-6470, RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES – SIZE, WEIGHT, AND LOAD LIMITS

Dear Chairman Shanley:

Please accept this written testimony as support for House Bill H-6470 which would transfer all responsibility for oversized/overweight permitting to the Department of Transportation and amends and increases fines for all oversized and overweight infractions.

Changes which clarify inconsistencies with RIGL 31-25 need to be made which officially transfer all responsibility of Oversized/Overweight (OS/OW) permitting to RIDOT from RI Department of Motor Vehicles (RIDMV). Additionally, the changes increase and clarify fines for all OS/OW infractions to deter ongoing and repetitive violations and offset major costs incurred to repair damages to infrastructure. Clarifications have been made to improve the enforceability of several laws and understanding of many of the technical weight limits. Several of these changes improved road accessibility for permit vehicles while maintaining safety.

RIDOT, RIDMV, and RI State Police worked together to create these changes which clarify inconsistencies, and conflicts without changing any of the allowed limits. This will make the laws easier for everyone to interpret, follow and to clearly understand the meaning and intent of these laws. For these reasons, RIDOT supports the passage of this bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Peter Alviti, Jr., P.E.
Director, Rhode Island Department of Transportation

