



February 25, 2016

*Written testimony from Matt Cota, Executive Director of the Vermont Fuel Dealers Association*

Approximately 27,000 people hold a Vermont Commercial Drivers License (CDL). Nearly 5000 CDL holders also have a Hazmat Endorsement which allow them to drive trucks that haul oilheat, gasoline, diesel, propane, and other commodities which require a hazmat placard.

There are certain criminal offenses that immediately disqualify an employee from obtaining a CDL. Additionally, anyone applying to drive a fuel truck must submit to a security threat assessment conducted by the Hazardous Materials Endorsement (HME) Threat Assessment Program (HTAP). Asking whether an applicant has been convicted of a crime before going through the process of obtaining a CDL is necessary for this line of work.

It is our understanding that the language in subsection (b) of [H.261](#) provides the necessary exemption for Vermont companies that hire employees whose job requires them to obtain a CDL. We encourage the committee to keep this language in the legislation.

We also encourage the committee to delay the implementation date. This will give employers an opportunity to develop new job application forms and hiring protocols to ensure compliance.

Thank you for your consideration.