

# P.O. Box 12417 Grand Forks, North Dakota 58208-2417

**Dear Senator Cory** 

Subject: SB 2206 – The Commercial Motor Carrier Fairness Act

I support critical legislative reforms aimed at ensuring fairness, efficiency, and clarity in civil actions involving commercial motor carriers. Specifically, these reforms focus on:

Establishing a Two-Year Statute of Limitations for initiating civil actions against motor carriers.

Capping Noneconomic Damages in such actions at \$500,000.

Allowing Evidence of Seatbelt Usage to be considered in civil cases where applicable.

Rationale for These Reforms:

### 1. A Two-Year Statute of Limitations:

A two-year limit strikes a fair balance between allowing adequate time for plaintiffs to file claims and preventing undue delays that hinder evidence preservation and legal clarity. This timeframe aligns with statutes of limitations in many other personal injury and civil action contexts, promoting consistency and predictability.

#### 2. Capping Noneconomic Damages at \$500,000:

While recognizing the importance of compensating injured parties, capping noneconomic damages helps prevent excessive and unpredictable awards that can strain businesses, increase insurance premiums, and disrupt the transportation industry's economic stability. This measure ensures that the compensation system remains fair and sustainable.

## 3. Allowing Evidence of Seatbelt Usage:

Incorporating seatbelt usage as admissible evidence promotes accountability and encourages safer behavior among motorists. It provides a more comprehensive and

accurate assessment of liability and damages, ensuring equitable outcomes for all parties involved.

## The Broader Impact:

These reforms will not only foster a fairer legal environment but also enhance road safety, support economic stability in the commercial motor carrier sector, and ensure just outcomes for all stakeholders. They reflect a commitment to maintaining a balance between protecting individual rights and supporting an essential industry that underpins our economy.

I encourage you to lend your voice and support to these proposed measures. By advocating for these changes, we can work towards a more equitable and efficient legal system that benefits all.

Thank you for considering this important issue. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

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