



October 1, 2009

Hon. Bill Estabrooks
Minister of Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal
Province of Nova Scotia
P.O. Box 186
Halifax, NS B3J 2N2

Dear Minister:

As the voice of nearly 2,000 member businesses representing upwards of 93,000 employees, the Halifax Chamber of Commerce supports local economic activity that creates employment, stimulates the economy and increases prosperity in greater Halifax, the entire province and the Atlantic region.

The Chamber's Transportation Committee recently brought to my attention their concerns about the lack of harmonization of regulations between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick with the rest of Canada for long-combination vehicles (LCVs). I specifically refer to the current requirement that NS and NB have for high-mounted lighting on the rear unit of an LCV. My understanding is that Quebec does not require such lighting and that Ontario, in fact, bans high-mounted lighting altogether.

This difference that NS and NB have with the rest of Canada effectively eliminates a shipper from utilizing LCVs between the Maritimes and central Canada as it is simply neither practical nor cost efficient for a company to comply with the additional regulatory burden that NS and NB currently mandate. Our concern is that not only does it make the cost of shipping goods to and from the province potentially more expensive, it also hinders those shippers from maximizing their use of the Port of Halifax as an effective part of their supply chain.

I encourage you to take a leadership role by eliminating the high-mounted lighting requirement on LCVs in Nova Scotia effective immediately and to open up the pilot program to all shippers that comply with the other necessary safety provisions of the LCV regulations. Moreover, I urge you to appeal to your New Brunswick counterpart to, likewise, eliminate this requirement and thereby bring NS and NB into line with Quebec and Ontario regulations. By allowing companies to safely and efficiently utilize LCVs for the entire journey to and from the Port of Halifax, we will allow the port to enhance its effectiveness as Canada's Atlantic Gateway.

Thank you for your immediate consideration of this matter. Eliminating this small regulatory hurdle will have an immediate and profound effect on our province's ability to compete in the global economy. I look forward to hearing back from you shortly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Valerie Payn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "V" and "P".

Valerie Payn
President and CEO

cc. Karen Oldfield – Halifax Port Authority
Halifax Chamber Transportation Committee