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**Testimony on Assembly Bill 655
Assembly Committee on Transportation
Wednesday, November 17, 2021**

Hello, and thank you Chairman Plumer and members of the Assembly Committee on Transportation for allowing me to testify on Assembly Bill 655, relating to entry-level training requirements for applicants for commercial driver licenses (CDLs) and certain endorsements.

This bill is a request of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT) to update state statute with the federal changes in 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 380. In order to remain in compliance with federal regulations, the state must update the statutes to continue to receive funding from the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program. Wisconsin receives around \$4 million each fiscal year in these federal funds.

The changes in the CFR create standards for the training and licensing of entry level commercial drivers and the regulation of commercial driver education schools. AB 655 implements these standards to require those who apply for a CDL for the first time or upgrade their CDL, and those who seek to obtain a passenger, school bus, or hazardous materials endorsement to successfully complete training. Additionally, the bill clarifies the training provider requirements for the instruction of employees, non-employees, and their instructors who provide classroom and behind-the-wheel education to their customers for the purposes of obtaining commercial driver licenses.

Thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to share testimony in support of this bill and I will be happy to answer any questions at this time.