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FMCSA 01-1117-6

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DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
BOOKETS

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The Honorable Maureen O'Connor
Lieutenant Governor of the State of Ohio
77 South High Street, 30th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

July 29, 2002

RE: Homeland Security = **JOBS for Ohioans**

cc: Senator Mike DeWine
Senator George Voinovich
Congressman Steven LaTourette
Administrator Joseph Clapp/FMCSA ✓

Dear Madam O'Connor:

According to recent news reports citing Administrator Joseph Clapp, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) is about to issue new rules concerning the manner and method in which background inquiries will be performed of Commercial Driver License (CDL) holders that have or will obtain a hazmat endorsement. It appears the basic order of events will be as follows:

Commercial driver supplies fingerprints to State officials



State officials forward fingerprint cards to the FBI



The FBI will process each card



FBI reports all findings to the DOT



The DOT will disseminate the results back to the appropriate State officials

In Administrator Clapp's own words: "It is a cumbersome rule...(and) involves a lot of upfront work with states."

Madam Lt. Governor, as I have mentioned in my recent correspondence to you, this is a prime opportunity for Ohio to take the lead in Homeland Security and CREATE JOBS FOR OHIOANS in doing so.

The essential framework of my proposal is as follows:

1. All states forward completed fingerprint cards directly to my company. (Predicated upon Administrator Clapp's estimate of 1,000,000 inquiries generated annually, I calculate **creating a minimum of 75-100 new jobs for Ohioans** to process this workload.)
2. Upon receipt, each fingerprint card will be date/time-stamped, cross referenced with the driver's Social Security number and logged into a secured, central database.
3. Each card will be inspected for completeness and accuracy. Those that are incomplete will be returned to the sender and noted in the central database.
4. Each day's collection of fingerprint cards that pass inspection will be batched and expressed to the FBI to be received as a single shipment –or– we can scan each fingerprint card and download the prints directly to the FBI.
5. As results are obtained, the FBI will download them directly into my company's database and to the DOT or, if the government so chooses, to the DOT through which the results will then be downloaded into my company's central database.
6. Using an assigned registration-security code, each state licensing agent across the nation will have access to the central database 24/7 to retrieve the FBI's/DOT's results using an identifier, such as the driver's Social Security number, as each driver applicant seeks to add or renew his/her hazmat endorsement in person.

[Note: I am pursuing acceptance of #1-6 above. However, if the DOT decides to make the results accessible as I have explained in Item #6, then I would still be interested in performing Items #1-4.]

Advantages to encouraging the federal government to adopt my initiative include:

- **A minimum of 75-100 new jobs for Ohioans.**
- The FBI will receive a single, daily batch of pre-inspected fingerprint cards from a single source versus thousands of separate mailings from State licensing agents across the country. (I am also interested in pursuing the feasibility of scanning each fingerprint card and downloading the information directly to the FBI.)
- Miscommunications will be minimized.
- Accountability will be maximized...one collection and pre-processing source.
- Operational efficiencies will lower the costs to the taxpayers accordingly:
 - Because we will inspect each fingerprint card for completeness and accuracy, the FBI will receive only usable data; and any driver needing to complete or redo

his/her fingerprint card will be notified much more quickly through my company than waiting for the same to happen at the federal level.

- States will not have to add to their personnel payroll and office space.
- I will, upon approval by the FMCSA, provide CDL holders internet access to a completely separate computer where each driver can enter his/her Social Security number and learn whether or not the results of their fingerprints have been processed and are available to their local State licensing agent. This will prevent millions of unnecessary telephone calls and unnecessary visits to State licensing agents across the country while at the same time safeguard the confidentiality of the data that will be made available from the FBI/DOT to the State licensing agents. Under the proposed ruling there apparently is no procedure that allows individual CDL holders to take ownership into checking the status of their background inquiry. Using a totally separate computer every CDL holder undergoing an FBI fingerprint background check will be able to log-on to a website, enter his/her Social Security number and receive one of the following messages:
 - ◆ *Your fingerprint card has not been received for processing.*
 - ◆ *Your fingerprint card was returned on (date) for completion. Please contact your local licensing agent and resubmit.*
 - ◆ *Your fingerprint card has been received and is currently being processed.*
 - ◆ *Your fingerprint card has been processed and the appropriate information is now available at your local licensing agent.*

My credentials include managing a \$46M/475 employee shipping subsidiary of a Fortune 500 company for ten years where I was also a member of a Disaster Recovery/Contingency Planning Committee. I will make sure all systems are supported with back-up electrical generators and that the contract with our mainframe provider will guarantee any computer crash be corrected within 4 hours or less. I remain willing to meet you in person to discuss this proposal in greater detail.

I ask that you please give this your most serious consideration and contact Administrator Clapp directly with this security initiative. I am sharing this correspondence with Senators Mike DeWine and George Voinovich and my local Congressman, Steven LaTourette, in anticipation that they may assist you in this matter. Of course, I remain first and foremost prepared to help get my initiative accepted in any way I can. Please advise. Thank you.

Sincerely,

