

**Written Testimony in Support of HB1338
Before the House Environment & Transportation Committee
March 5, 2026**

Submitted by:
Lawrence Bird
Operations Manager
Blue Heron Transportation
Towson, MD

Chair Marc A. Korman, Vice Chair Michele J. Guyton, and Members of the Committee:

Blue Heron Transportation is a Maryland-based transportation company providing commercial driving and logistics services across the region. Our organization employs drivers in positions that require entry into Commercial Driver's License (CDL) training programs and long-term careers in the transportation sector.

Like many employers in this industry, we are experiencing a significant shortage of qualified CDL drivers. Maryland's provisional licensing requirement directly delays otherwise qualified adults from entering CDL training pipelines.

Individuals seeking to begin a career in commercial driving must first hold a full, unrestricted driver's license. As a result, adults who are otherwise ready and motivated to pursue CDL careers are delayed for up to 18 months solely due to provisional license status — not due to safety, performance, or qualifications.

This delay restricts the pipeline of new drivers entering the industry and exacerbates existing labor shortages in transportation and logistics.

HB1338 would remove this unnecessary barrier for adults while maintaining all safety standards. Individuals would still be required to meet all education, testing, and enforcement requirements. The bill simply allows adults to move forward once those requirements are met.

From an employer perspective, this change would strengthen the workforce pipeline, improve access to training programs, and support Maryland's transportation infrastructure. We fully support rigorous commercial licensing and safety standards.

We respectfully urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on HB1338.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Bird
Operations Manager