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February 7, 2025  
9:30 A.M.  
State Capitol, Room 411

**H.B. 1158, H.D. 1**  
**RELATING TO FIREFIGHTING AT COMMERCIAL HARBORS**

House Committee on Public Safety

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** this measure that improves safety at commercial harbors by limiting the civil liability of private entities that assist firefighters in rendering firefighting services. This bill was included in the Governor's Package at DOT's request.

There are privately-owned assets and vessels home ported in commercial ports across the state that are equipped with fire monitors and water cannons that could be used in fighting fires in and around waterfront facilities. However, there have been instances where private entities responsible for these assets and vessels have declined to assist county fire departments in providing firefighting services because of concerns over possible civil liability. This bill seeks to limit the civil liability of private individuals providing those essential firefighting services to only damages resulting from an individual's gross negligence or wanton acts or omissions.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.