



131 West Wilson Street, Suite 400, Madison, WI 53703-3269
608.258.4400 fax 608.258.4407

400 Selby Avenue, Suite Y, St. Paul, MN 55102-4520
651.228.0213 fax 651.228.1184

www.cooperativenetwork.coop

January 18, 2010

To: Members, State Assembly

From: Jim Rabbitt, Director of Government Relations

Re: Support for AB 32 on Tuesday Calendar

Cooperative Network represents 600 cooperatives, mutual insurance companies, and credit unions owned by approximately 2.9 million Wisconsin members. We ask for your support of Assembly Bill 32, which will allow Cooperative Network member Union Cab to enroll in the Employer Notification Program at the Department of Transportation. The Committee on Transportation recommended AB 32 with a 12-0 vote.

Enrollment in the Employer Notification Program allows DOT to notify an employer if one of their drivers incurs points against their license, or has their license suspended or revoked. The program pays for itself through fees and participation by businesses is voluntary.

Under current law, employer notification is only available to employers whose drivers carry a commercial driver's license (CDL). Because taxi drivers and Para transit drivers are not required to carry CDLs, their employers are not eligible to enroll in the program and therefore may not be aware that a driver has a revoked or suspended license. We believe that users of taxi or Para transit services assume that their driver has a license in good standing and would be unpleasantly surprised to find that reputable businesses face a barrier under current law to this important information.

AB 32 is also supported by the Specialized Medical Vehicle Association of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Association of Taxicab Owners, the Wisconsin Car Rental Alliance, the Wisconsin Motor Carriers Association, and the Wisconsin urban and Rural Transit Association.

Thank you for considering this request.