



Thanksgiving Travels Should Remind DRIVE Act (H.R. 22) Conferees to Promote Safety

November 24, 2015

Dear Conferee:

Thanksgiving is one of the busiest travel weekends of the year with millions of people driving to visit friends and family. For many of us, however, we are one or several guests short. The absence of a friend or a family member serves as a grave reminder of the sudden, unnecessary loss that we experienced upon losing a loved one in a large truck crash. Busy travel weekends like this remind us of the dire need to reform our current system and advance safety on our nation's roads and bridges. The best way to ensure the safety of the motoring public in the long term is for Congress to remove the anti-safety provisions in the multi-year surface transportation reauthorization bill.

A provision permitting interstate teen truck drivers is a misguided measure that will allow higher-risk drivers to get behind the wheel of an 80,000-lbs. truck. Yet, Congress is moving forward on this despite the public's firm opposition to lowering interstate truck driving age from 21 to 18. A recently release public opinion poll showed that 77 percent of the public is opposed to this proposal. Congress should listen to the public, look at the safety statistics on teen drivers, and act accordingly.

Furthermore, the bill is stuffed like a turkey with other industry handouts such as providing exemptions to the federal weight limit and hours of service (HOS) requirements for certain industries. If passed, families will be forced to maneuver around heavier trucks and drive next to truckers who could be working for more than 80 hours per week. Legislation to increase truck weight limits, or loosen HOS requirements, industry-by-industry is merely a back door attempt by trucking interests to come back to Congress in a few years and push for increases across the board.

It is upsetting that some Members of Congress are so willing to accept dangerous policy proposals without studying them first, like mandating Double 33 tractor trailers and allowing teen interstate truckers. It is even more upsetting, however, that these same lawmakers erect roadblocks to impede studies on pro-safety policies, like increasing the minimum levels of insurance or requiring forward collision avoidance and mitigation (F-CAM) braking systems on all large trucks. Congress should be utilizing the rulemaking process to ensure they have the best information to make a data-driven decision on an issue, not to block measures that do not align with special interest requests.

This holiday season, as families eagerly await for the arrival of their loved ones, we urge you to remedy the safety setbacks in the DRIVE Act before another family has an empty chair at their Thanksgiving table this year. As survivors and families who lost loved ones in large truck crashes, we would be thankful for a safe holiday weekend and for a transportation bill that actually advances safety for the next six years.

Sincerely,

Dawn King
Davisburg, MI
President, Truck Safety Coalition (TSC)
Board Member, Citizens for Reliable and Safe Highways (CRASH)
Daughter of Bill Badger
Killed in truck crash 12/23/04

Russ Swift
Port St. Lucie, FL
Co-chair, Parents Against Tired Truckers
(PATT)
Father of Jasen Swift
Killed in a truck crash 10/14/93

Jane Mathis
St. Augustine, FL
Vice President, TSC
Board Member, PATT
Member, Motor Carrier Safety Advisory
Committee (MCSAC)
Mother of David Mathis
Mother-in-Law of Mary Kathryn Mathis
Killed in a truck crash 3/25/04

Linda Wilburn
Weatherford, OK
Board Member, PATT
Mother of Orbie Wilburn
Killed in a truck crash 9/2/02

Tami Friedrich Trakh
Corona, CA
Board Member, CRASH
Member, MCSAC
Sister of Kris Mercurio, Sister-in-Law of Alan
Mercurio, Aunt of Brandie Rooker & Anthony
Mercurio
Killed in a truck crash 12/27/89

Larry Liberatore
Severn, MD
Board Member, PATT
Father of Nick Liberatore
Killed in a truck crash 6/9/97

Marc Johnson
Hartwell, GA
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition
Brother of Curt Johnson
Killed in truck crash 10/1/2009

Vickie Johnson
Hartwell, GA
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition
Wife of Curt Johnson, Step-mother of Crystal
Johnson
Killed in a truck crash 10/1/2009

Beth Badger
Columbus, GA
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition
Daughter of Bill Badger
Killed in truck crash 12/23/04

Vincent Laubach
Reno, NV
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition
Truck Crash Survivor

Kathleen Laubach
Reno, NV
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition
Truck Crash Survivor

Lisa Shrum
Fayette, MO
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition
Daughter of Virginia Baker, Step-daughter of
Randy Baker
Killed in a truck crash 10/10/06

Tina Silva
Ontario, CA
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition
Sister of Kris Mercurio, Sister-in-Law of Alan
Mercurio, Aunt of Brandie Rooker & Anthony
Mercurio
Killed in a truck crash 12/27/89

Bruce King
Davisburg, MI
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition
Son-in-law of Bill Badger
Killed in truck crash 12/23/04

Laurie Higginbotham
Memphis, TN
Volunteers, Truck Safety Coalition
Mother of Michael Higginbotham
Killed in a truck crash, 11/18/14

Randall Higginbotham
Memphis, TN
Volunteers, Truck Safety Coalition
Father of Michael Higginbotham
Killed in a truck crash, 11/18/14

Ed Slattery
Lutherville, MD
Board Member, PATT
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition
Husband of Susan Slattery
Killed in a truck crash 8/16/10
Sons Matthew & Peter Slattery critically injured

Kate Brown
Gurnee, IL
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition
Mother of Graham Brown
Injured in a truck crash 5/2/05

Ron Wood
Washington, D.C.
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition
Son of Betsy Wood, Brother of Lisa Wood
Martin, Uncle of Chance, Brock, and Reid
Martin
Killed in a truck crash 9/20/04

Gary Wilburn
Weatherford, OK
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition
Father of Orbie Wilburn
Killed in a truck crash 9/2/02

Henry Steck
Homer, NY
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition

Melissa Gouge
Washington, D.C.
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition
Cousin of Amy Corbin
Killed in a truck crash 8/18/97

Cindy Southern
Cleveland, TN
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition
Wife of James Whitaker, sister-in-law Anthony
Hixon and aunt of Amber Hixon
Killed in a truck crash 9/18/09

Kim Telep
Harrisburg, PA
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition
Wife of Bradley Telep
Killed in a truck crash 8/29/12

Alan Dana
Plattsburgh, NY
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition
Son of Janet Dana, Uncle of Caitlyn & Lauryn
Dana, Brother-in-law of Laurie Dana
Killed in a truck crash 7/19/12

Amy Fletcher
Perrysburg, OH
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition
Wife of John Fletcher
Killed in a truck crash 1/24/12

Daphne Izer
Lisbon, ME
Founder, Parents Against Tired Truckers
(PATT)
Mother of Jeff Izer
Killed in a truck crash 10/10/93

Steve Izer
Lisbon, ME
Board Member, PATT
Father of Jeff Izer
Killed in a truck crash 10/10/93

Jennifer Tierney
Kernersville, NC
Board Member, CRASH
Member, MCSAC
Daughter of James Mooney
Killed in a truck crash 9/20/83

Nancy Meuleners
Bloomington, MN
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition
Injured in a truck crash 12/19/89

Paul Badger
Davidson, NC
Son of Bill Badger
Killed in truck crash 12/23/04

Marianne Karth
Rocky Mount, NC
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition
Founder, AnnaLeah & Mary for Truck Safety
Mother of AnnaLeah and Mary Karth
Killed in a truck crash 5/4/13

Jerry Karth
Rocky Mount, NC
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition
Founder, AnnaLeah & Mary for Truck Safety
Father of AnnaLeah and Mary Karth
Killed in a truck crash 5/4/13

Frank Wood
Falls Church, VA
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition
Father of Dana Wood
Killed in a truck crash 10/15/02

Marchelle Wood
Falls Church, VA
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition
Mother of Dana Wood
Killed in a truck crash 10/15/02

Jackie Novak
Hendersonville, NC
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition
Mother of Charles "Chuck" Novak
Killed in a truck crash 10/24/10

Julie Branon Magnan
South Burlington, VT
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition
Injured in a truck crash 01/31/02
Wife of David Magnan
Killed in a truck crash 01/31/02

Christina Mahaney
Jackman, ME
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition
Injured in a truck crash 7/19/2011
Mother of Liam Mahaney
Killed in a truck crash 7/19/2011

Sandra Lance
Chesterfield, VA
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition
Mother of Kristen Belair
Killed in a truck crash 8/26/2009

Debra Cruz
Harlingen, TX
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition
Injured in a truck crash 8/8/2008

Bernadette Fox
Davis, CA
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition
Best friend of Daniel McGuire
Killed in a truck crash 7/10/2014

Warren Huffman
Odessa, MI
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition
Brother of Tim Huffman
Killed in a truck crash 5/6/13

Tammy Huffman
Odessa, MI
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition
Sister-in-law of Tim Huffman
Killed in a truck crash 5/6/13

Wanda Lindsay
New Braunfels, TX
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition
Wife of John Lindsay
Killed in a truck crash 5/7/10

Tom Lindsay
Carrollton, KY
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition
Son of John Lindsay
Killed in a truck crash 5/7/10

Ashley McMillan
Memphis, TN
Volunteers, Truck Safety Coalition
Girlfriend of Michael Higginbotham
Killed in a truck crash, 11/18/14

Michelle Novak
Delevan, NY
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition
Aunt of Charles "Chuck" Novak
Killed in a truck crash 10/24/10

John Ramsey
Edneyville, NC
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition