



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20590

December 4, 2014

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Mikulski:

I write to register my strong objection to a proposal under consideration for the Omnibus Appropriations Conference agreement that would suspend the "34-hour restart" provision of the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) truck safety regulations. I am compelled by the evidence available to me to implore you to reject any such suspension.

The provision at issue is a central element of a comprehensive rule that ensures that truck drivers have adequate rest when operating on our highways. It is essential for the safety of our truck drivers and the safety of families and loved ones who share the road with them. I am seriously concerned that this suspension will put lives at risk, as it will increase the maximum allowable work limits for truck drivers from an average of 70 hours per week to over 82. This regulatory provision (like all other aspects of the rule) was developed based on sound data and analysis.

The evidence clearly shows that truck drivers are better rested and more alert after two nights of sleep than one night, and that unending 80-hour work weeks lead to driver fatigue and compromise highway safety. Further, a major field study mandated under MAP-21 that included over 100 drivers, completed since the rule took effect, confirms that nighttime drivers with only one night of recovery score significantly poorer on multiple kinds of safety assessments. In contrast, no data or other evidence suggests that the new restart is either jeopardizing safety or harming the Nation's transportation productivity.

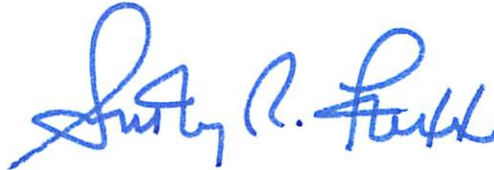
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The Honorable Barbara Mikulski

I fully respect the prerogative of Congress to challenge our approach. However, I fear that this measure will result in a lower level of safety. I therefore urge you to consider alternatives that fall short of repealing or suspending any portion of DOT's 2011 truck safety rule. The safety of the driving public is at stake.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
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Dear Senator Shelby:

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December 4, 2014

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing  
and Urban Development  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murray:

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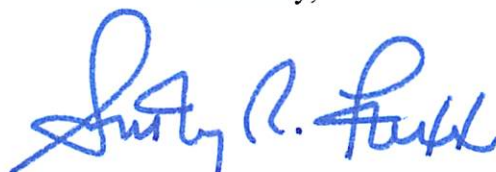
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Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing  
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Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

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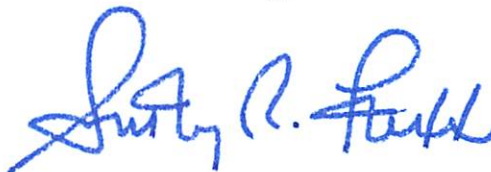
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December 4, 2014

The Honorable Hal Rogers  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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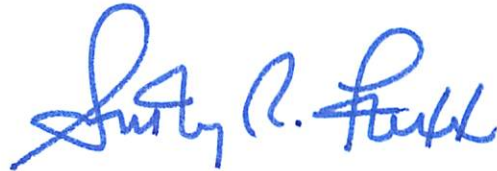
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December 4, 2014

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Lowey:

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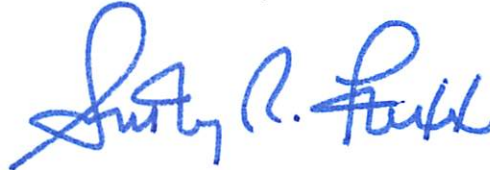


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The Honorable Tom Latham  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing  
and Urban Development  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Latham:

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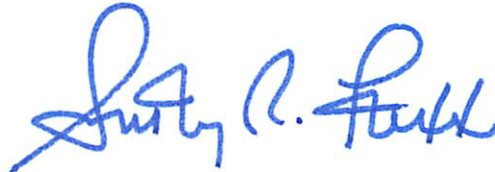
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