

December 3, 2014

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

We commend your commitment to making safety your highest priority as Secretary of Transportation. It is for this reason that we are writing to you about the numerous attacks on truck safety in Congress. As family members of loved ones killed or seriously injured in preventable truck crashes as well as representatives of consumer, labor, health and safety organizations, we are united in opposing any special interest anti-safety provisions included in a Continuing Resolution or omnibus funding bill for specific motor carriers, specific industries or specific states. The attached letter recently sent to the leaders of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees signed by numerous groups and individuals conveys that strong opposition.

As the 113th Congress draws to a close, trucking and shipping interests are relentlessly pushing an anti-safety agenda that is dangerous, deadly and unprecedented in its assault on public health and safety. Industry's long wish list includes exempting several states from federal truck size and weight limits; forcing 39 states, including your own home state of North Carolina, to accept longer trucks which will degrade safety and require expensive infrastructure modifications; and, overturning the Administration's truck driver hours of service rule by eliminating the two-day weekend off-duty for truck drivers to rest thereby dramatically increasing the working and driving hours of truck drivers.

Enactment of any of these anti-safety measures will have a profound and lasting impact on highway safety, deaths and injuries. By overwhelming margins in numerous public opinion polls, the American public consistently and convincingly rejects sharing the road with bigger, heavier and longer trucks and increasing truck drivers' already arduous 70-hour work weeks, no matter the political affiliation, age, sex or geographic location of the respondent.

As you know, truck crashes are a serious, deadly and costly problem to families, our infrastructure, our health care system, and to the economy. Large truck crashes are on the rise. In 2012, 3,921 people were killed and 104,000 more were injured. This is equivalent to a major airplane crash every week of the year. In the past decade, a total of 44,204 people have been killed and nearly one million people have been injured in crashes involving large trucks. The annual cost to society from crashes involving commercial motor vehicles is estimated to be over \$99 Billion.

The White House recently sent a strong message to Congress objecting to legislation being developed which would extend expiring tax breaks for corporations. White House press secretary Jen Friedman stated, "The president would veto the proposed deal, because it would provide permanent tax breaks to help well-connected corporations while neglecting working families."

Following this very same reasoning, we urge President Obama not to sign legislation that provides special interest truck safety exemptions for well-connected corporate trucking interests at the peril of public safety for millions of families using our highways every day. We ask you to support this position and convey to President Obama the need to stand up for families once again and reject any bill that will result in more deaths and injuries on our highways.

Respectfully,

Jacqueline Gillan, President
Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety

Joan Claybrook, President Emeritus
Public Citizen

Jack Gillis, Director of Public Affairs
Consumer Federation of America

James P. Hoffa, General President
International Brotherhood of Teamsters

John Lannen, Executive Director
Truck Safety Coalition

Andrew McGuire, Executive Director
Trauma Foundation

Ed Slattery
Lutherville, MD
Board Member, Parents Against Tired Truckers (PATT)
Husband of Susan Slattery (killed), Father of Matthew &
Peter (critically injured)
Truck crash 8/16/10

Jennifer Tierney
Kernersville, NC
Board Member, Citizens for Reliable and Safe Highways (CRASH)
Member, Motor Carrier Safety Advisory Committee (MCSAC)
Daughter of James Mooney
Killed in a truck crash 9/20/83

Marianne & Jerry Karth
Rocky Mount, NC
Volunteers, Truck Safety Coalition
Parents of AnnaLeah & Mary Karth
Killed in a truck crash 5/4/13

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

Roy Crawford
Whitesburg, KY
Licensed Professional Engineer
Fellow of the National Academy of Forensic Engineers
Fellow of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences
Kentucky & West Virginia Volunteer Coordinator,
Truck Safety Coalition
Father of Guy Champ Crawford
Killed in a truck crash 1/12/94

Otis Wafer
Gretna, LA
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition
Father of Patrick Wafer
Killed in a truck crash 9/4/13

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

Daphne Izer
Lisbon, ME
Founder, PATT
Mother of Jeff Izer
Killed in a truck crash 10/10/93

Sandra Lance
Chesterfield, VA
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition
Mother of Kristen Belair
Killed in a truck crash 8/26/09

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

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

Frank & Marchelle Wood
Falls Church, VA
Volunteers, Truck Safety Coalition
Parents of Dana Wood
Killed in a truck crash 10/15/02

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