



Parents Against Tired Truckers and Citizens for Reliable and Safe Highways

October 19, 2015

Mr. Bill Graves, President and CEO
American Trucking Associations
950 North Glebe Road, Suite 210
Arlington, VA 22203

Dear Mr. Graves:

As families and friends of people who were needlessly killed in truck crashes, we are writing to urge the American Trucking Associations (ATA) to scrap its current legislative agenda and stand with the public to support safety. Since you have become President and CEO of ATA, more than 48,000 people have died in large truck crashes in the United States between 2003 and 2013. To put this figure into perspective, large truck crash fatalities have exceeded the entire population of your hometown of Salina, Kansas. Moreover, over the last four years (2009-2013), truck crash fatalities have gone up 17 percent and injuries have increased 28 percent. Clearly the ATA should embark on a course correction and advocate for improving laws and safety protections which will address this unacceptable death and injury toll.

The ATA has been lobbying for an all-out assault on truck safety including: overturning state laws and forcing them to allow longer 33-foot double trailer trucks; pushing for heavier trucks on our already compromised infrastructure; extending already long work weeks for truck drivers to up to 82 hours per week; allowing teenagers to drive trucks weighing 80,000 pounds or more interstate; and, reducing the oversight and accountability of trucking companies by prohibiting the public from accessing critical data on their safety history.

Pushing Congress to hand over the keys to 18 to 20 year olds to drive across state lines is a prime example of an ATA proposal that will make our roads more dangerous and also belies public opinion. *USA Today*, *The New York Times*, the *Wilkes Journal-Patriot*, the *Montgomery Advertiser*, *The Capital Times* and other papers throughout the country have issued editorials opposing this proposal. In fact, in an interview with NPR in July, a trucking executive said he wouldn't hire teenagers because of safety concerns. It is a commonly known fact that teen drivers lack driving experience and are more likely to engage in risky behavior. Additionally, the fatal crash involvement rate of commercial motor vehicle (CMV) drivers increases as the age of the driver decreases. We urge you to withdraw support from this ill-conceived plan and instead support strong, comprehensive entry-level driver training requirements that ensure new drivers fully understand how to operate a large truck.

We also urge the ATA to join the numerous trucking companies that have committed to putting safety first and are opposing bigger and heavier trucks. Productivity, corporate responsibility and safety can be coexisting goals. The ATA is in a powerful position to demonstrate leadership

and commit to a type of “Vision Zero” plan for fatalities and injuries in truck crashes. Now is the time to stop the assault on truck safety and commit to advances that will save lives, protect our infrastructure and also reduce associated crash costs. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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

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

Jane Mathis
St. Augustine, FL
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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ed Slattery
Lutherville, MD
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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Henry Steck
Homer, NY
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition

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

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 8/26/09

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