

September 5, 2017

Dear Representative:

Today, the Committee on Rules will consider amendments to H.R. 3354, legislation which includes the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, or THUD bill. There are several amendments that have been submitted that repeal and weaken current truck safety laws and regulations. The proposed amendments are major policy and regulatory changes that have not been subject to any House hearings, public input or agency review. We urge you to reject all of them.

Truck crash deaths and injuries have been increasing significantly and unabated. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT), 4,067 people were needlessly killed in crashes involving large trucks in 2015. This represents a 20 percent increase since 2009. Furthermore, 116,000 people were injured -- the largest number of injuries since 2004, and a 57 percent increase since 2009. The annual death and injury toll of truck crashes as well as the upward trends are completely unacceptable and attacks on safety rules would never be tolerated in any other mode of transportation.

For these reasons, we strongly urge you to oppose the following amendments:

- **Amendment #35** (offered by Reps. Babin (R-TX), Smucker (R-PA) and LaMalfa (R-CA)) prohibits funds from being used to implement or enforce a rule that takes effect in December 2017 requiring Electronic Logging Devices (ELDs) on commercial motor vehicles (CMVs). The requirement for ELDs was passed with bipartisan support in the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21, Pub. L. 112-141). This safety improvement had broad support from safety and public health groups, law enforcement, truck crash families and survivors, the Teamsters and other trucking interests -- and for good reason. The U.S. DOT estimated annualized net benefits of adopting ELDs to be over \$1 billion. Moreover, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) has repeatedly recommended that all trucks and buses be equipped with logging devices. Fatigue is a well-known and well-documented safety problem and ELDs are a critical tool to ensure compliance with hours of service rules and combat the deadly consequences of tired truckers.
- **Amendment #60** (offered by Reps. Perry (R-PA), LaMalfa (R-CA) and Meadows (R-NC)) prohibits the use of funds for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) to finalize a rulemaking on speed limiting devices for large trucks. On average, over 1,000 people are needlessly killed annually because of speeding trucks. This lifesaving technology is already installed on most large trucks. High speeds and large trucks are a deadly combination. A 2012 study by FMCSA found that trucks without a speed limiting device had twice as many speed related crashes as those trucks equipped with a speed limiter.
- **Amendment #84** (offered by Reps. DeSaulnier (D-CA), Davis (R-IL) and Smucker (R-PA)) would prohibit funds from being used to enforce weight limits up to 82,000 pounds for trucks powered by electric batteries. Encouraging alternative energy use in large trucks should not be achieved by hand-cuffing law enforcement from enforcing truck

weight limit laws and regulations and compromising safety. Overweight trucks are a serious safety threat to motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists and bigger trucks inflict even bigger damage to already-crumbling roads and bridges.

These amendments on behalf of special trucking interests will have adverse safety ramifications for families in your districts that share the road with large trucks. Before today is over, 11 people will be killed and over 300 injured in a large truck crash. We strongly urge you to reject all anti-truck safety amendments to the appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

Joan Claybrook, Chair
Citizens for Reliable and Safe Highways and
Former Administrator, National Highway
Traffic Safety Administration

John Lannen, Executive Director
Truck Safety Coalition

Steve Owings, Co-Founder
Road Safe America

Andrew McGuire, Executive Director
Trauma Foundation

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

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

Jane Mathis
St. Augustine, FL
Vice President, TSC
Board Member, PATT
Mother of David Mathis
Mother-in-Law of Mary Kathryn Mathis

Jacqueline Gillan, President
Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety

John Risch, National Legislative Director
SMART-TD (UTU)

Dominick L. Stokes
Vice President for Legislative Affairs
Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association

Janette Fennell, Founder and President
KidsAndCars.org

Jack Gillis, Director of Public Affairs
Consumer Federation of America

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lisa Shrum
Fayette, MO
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition

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

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

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
Daughter of James Mooney
Killed in a truck crash 9/20/83

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

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

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

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
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition
Mother of Michael Higginbotham
Killed in a truck crash, 11/18/14

Randall Higginbotham
Memphis, TN
Volunteer, 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

Henry Steck
Homer, NY
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition

Marc Johnson
Hartwell, GA

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

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

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

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

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

Morgan Lake
Sunderland, MD
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition
Injured in a truck crash 7/19/13

Peter Malarczyk
Hastings-on-Hudson, NY
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition

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

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

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

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

Injured in a truck crash 12/29/15
Son of Ryszard and Anita Malarczyk
Killed in a truck crash 12/29/15

Monica Malarczyk
Hastings-on-Hudson, NY
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition
Injured in a truck crash 12/29/15
Son of Ryszard and Anita Malarczyk
Killed in a truck crash 12/29/15

Santiago Calderon
Arcata, CA
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition
Injured in a truck crash 4/10/14

Michelle Lemus
Los Angeles, CA
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition
Injured in a truck crash 4/10/14

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

John Ramsey
Edneyville, NC
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition