

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 22, 2011

The Honorable Raymond H. LaHood
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

We are concerned about the Department of Transportation's proposed changes to the hours of service rules for commercial truck drivers. The proposed changes, if finalized, would have a substantially negative impact on highway transportation safety and the U.S. economy.

Since being implemented in 2003, the current hours in service rules have allowed the trucking industry to achieve unprecedented improvements in safety performance and productivity. During this time, both the number and rate of fatal and injury accidents involving large trucks have declined to their lowest levels in recorded history, even as truck mileage increased by almost 10 billion miles.

If the proposed changes are put in place, companies will be forced to increase the number of trucks on the road necessary for delivering the same amount of freight; adding to final product costs and increasing congestion on our nation's highways. Small business truckers, many of whom we represent, would be especially hard hit by the new rules.

Lastly, beyond the productivity losses and increased costs on industry and consumers, the proposed changes would significantly challenge law enforcement. Because the proposed rules are complex and restrictive, motor carriers will have difficulty understanding them and enforcement officers will have difficulty accurately identifying violations. For example, in order to determine if a driver can legally claim to have met the conditions of a weekly rest provision, an enforcement official would have to ensure that at least 168 hours had elapsed since the beginning of the most recent weekly rest period and that the break included two consecutive nighttime periods between midnight and 6 a.m. As you can see, such complexity will only serve to hamper both industry compliance and motor carrier enforcement.

Thank you again for your time and consideration of this important issue. We look forward to your response, and working with you as we continue to identify and remove those regulations posing the greatest burden on our nation's business community and overall economic recovery.

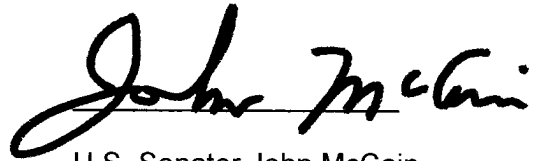
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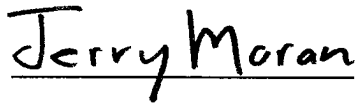
Sincerely,



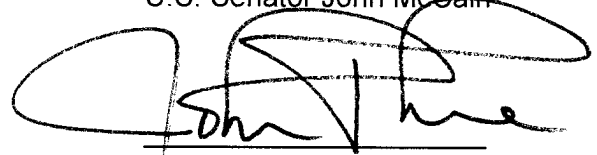
U.S. Senator Pat Roberts



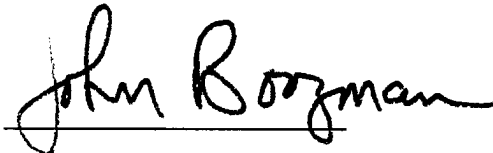
U.S. Senator John McCain



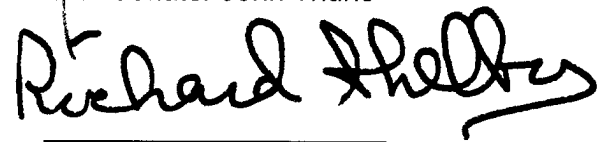
U.S. Senator Jerry Moran



U.S. Senator John Thune




U.S. Senator John Boozman



U.S. Senator Richard Shelby



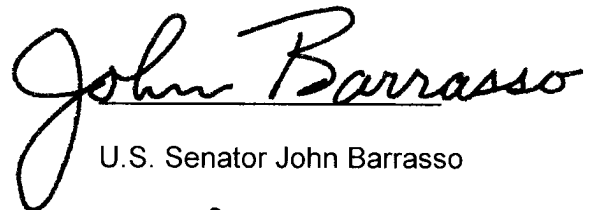
U.S. Senator Daniel Coats



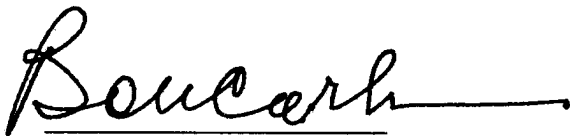
U.S. Senator Jon Kyl




U.S. Senator Mike Johanns



U.S. Senator John Barrasso



U.S. Senator Bob Corker



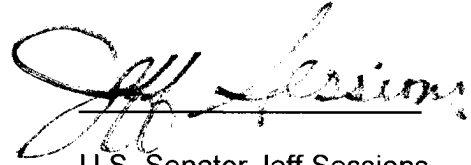
U.S. Senator John Ensign

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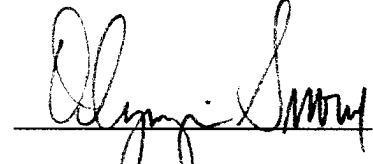
U.S. Senator Rob Portman



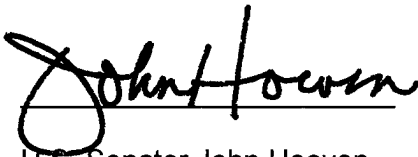
U.S. Senator Jeff Sessions



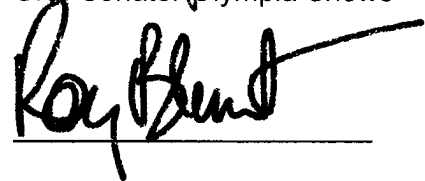
U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley



U.S. Senator Olympia Snowe



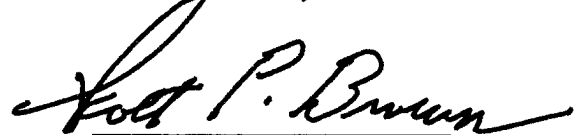
U.S. Senator John Hoeven



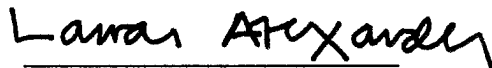
U.S. Senator Roy Blunt



U.S. Senator Rand Paul



U.S. Senator Scott Brown



U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander



U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham



U.S. Senator James Risch