November 2, 2015

To the House of Representatives:

Today’s economy requires increased efficiencies throughout the transportation supply chain and continued enhancements to safety. For U.S. agriculture, improved transportation efficiency allows highly perishable goods to be delivered to consumers more economically and with higher overall quality. In the coming weeks Congress has the opportunity to provide options to the states to, at their discretion, increase allowable truck weights on Interstate Highways. Studies in the US and the experience of other countries demonstrate that increased truck transportation efficiency also results in fewer truck miles driven, safer highways and reduced road wear.

We expect that during the consideration of the Surface Transportation Reauthorization and Reform Act of 2015 on the House floor, an amendment will be offered by Rep. Ribble to include the Safe, Flexible, and Efficient Trucking Act of 2015 (H.R. 3488) in the highway reauthorization. The amendment would allow states to increase truck weight limits on their Interstate Highways to 91,000 pounds as long as those trucks are equipped with an additional sixth axle.

Truck weight reform is a commonsense and safe approach to ease the increased burden facing our surface infrastructure. Multiple government-sanctioned studies have shown that increasing truck weight -not size- has resulted in making safe roads even safer. By adding an additional axle, braking and handling standards are not compromised. By doing more with fewer trucks, we can have a cleaner environment, safer highways, an improved infrastructure, and a stronger agricultural economy that is even more competitive in the global marketplace.

The undersigned groups strongly encourage you to support the effort to adopt sensible reforms that improve truck efficiency and safety. Thank you for your significant efforts to improve the safety of our nation’s roadways.

Sincerely,

United Fresh Produce Association
AmericanHort
American Mushroom Institute
American Pistachio Growers
Cranberry Institute
Dairy Business Association
National Berry Crops Initiative
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Grape Cooperative Association, Inc.
National Peach Council
National Potato Council
National Onion Association
National Watermelon Association
Produce Marketing Association
Society of American Florists
U.S. Apple Association
U.S. Sweet Potato Council
WineAmerica
Western Growers Association
California Citrus Mutual
California Farm Bureau
California Fresh Fruit Association
Grower-Shipper Association of Central California
Sunkist Growers
Colorado Farm Bureau
Colorado Potato Administrative Committee
Florida Citrus Mutual
Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association
Florida Tomato Exchange
Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association
Idaho Grower Shippers Association
Idaho Potato Commission
Maine Potato Board
Midwest Food Processors Association
New York Apple Association
Northern Plains Potato Growers Association
Oregon Potato Commission
Pacific Northwest Vegetable Association
Potato Growers of Idaho
Texas Citrus Mutual
Texas International Produce
Texas Vegetable Association
Washington Farm Bureau
Washington State Hay Growers Association
Washington State Potato Commission
Western Washington Agricultural Association