

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