



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: November 5, 2015

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United Fresh Pleased with Progress Made on Long-Term Transportation Bill; Committed to Seeking Improvements

In response to the House of Representatives passing the Surface Transportation Reauthorization and Reform Act of 2015, Robert Guenther, Senior Vice President, Public Policy, United Fresh Produce Association, issued the following statement.

“United Fresh is pleased that the House of Representatives reached a key milestone in the effort to pass a multi-year transportation bill that reauthorizes federal surface transportation programs. For nearly a decade, the fresh produce industry has been advocating for a long-term transportation funding plan. Most recently, Congress heard from more than 500 produce executives in face-to-face meetings when we held our Washington Conference in September. During each of those meetings we reiterated the positive impact that improvements to our nation’s massive transportation network would have on our industry’s ability to operate effectively and continue to supply Americans with an abundant supply of fresh fruits and vegetables.

“We are also pleased that - in spite of intense opposition – proposals to address key fresh produce priorities such as national motor carrier hiring standards and port performance data will likely be addressed when the House and Senate have a conference to reconcile their respective versions of the legislation.

“Unfortunately, we are extremely disappointed by the defeat of Representative Reid Ribble’s (R-Wisconsin) amendment that would have allowed states to increase truck weights on their respective interstate highways. Findings from the Department of Transportation clearly prove that heavier, six-axle trucks are not only safer for the public but also more economical and healthier for the environment. Regardless, we remain committed to seeking much-needed improvements to our national transportation policies, so that growers, wholesalers, retailers and other produce businesses can continue to provide Americans with an abundant and nutritious supply of fresh fruits and vegetables safely and quickly.”

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About United Fresh Produce Association

Founded in 1904, the United Fresh Produce Association brings together companies across every segment of the fresh produce supply chain, including growers, shippers, fresh cut processors, wholesalers, distributors, retailers, foodservice operators, industry suppliers and allied associations. We empower industry leaders to shape sound government policy. We deliver the resources and expertise companies need to succeed in managing complex business and technical issues. We provide the training and development individuals need to advance their careers in produce. Through these endeavors, we unite our industry with a common purpose – to build long-term value for our members and grow produce consumption. Visit www.unitedfresh.org.