

November 3, 2015

To Members of the House of Representatives:

As you consider the Surface Transportation Reauthorization and Reform Act of 2015 on the House floor, the undersigned food and agriculture organizations urge you to support a bipartisan amendment that will be offered by Reps. Reid Ribble, Kurt Schrader, David Rouzer and Collin Peterson to include the Safe, Flexible and Efficient Trucking Act (SAFE Trucking Act) in the bill.

We believe the SAFE Trucking Act is a carefully crafted proposal with broad support that will safely improve transportation efficiency, facilitate economic growth and bring much needed improvements to the American food supply chain. It will modernize U.S. truck weight limits, allowing the food and agriculture industry to safely enhance the efficiency of truck and connected modes of transportation.

In the agriculture and food industries, our farms and businesses are growing and making products more resourcefully. But outdated federal transportation rules force trucks to leave the farm and our plants partly empty because the trucks meet current weight limits before they reach capacity. By giving states **the option** to raise the federal gross vehicle weight limit from 80,000 pounds to 91,000 pounds for trucks equipped with six axles rather than the typical five, the Safe Trucking Act would safely modernize truck shipments on Interstate highways by reducing the number of trucks needed to move our commodities and products through better utilization of existing capacity.

The U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Comprehensive Truck Size and Weight Study found that the 91,000 pound six-axle configuration (the SAFE Trucking Act configuration) is bridge formula compliant, would reduce pavement costs, truck miles traveled, fuel costs and carbon dioxide emissions, all while improving braking ability and maintaining handling characteristics. Freight tonnage is projected to increase 25 percent in the next decade but at the same time, DOT projects that there will be less than one percent of modal shift from rail to truck if this amendment is adopted.

On behalf of the America's food and agriculture community, we urge you to support Rep. Ribble's common-sense amendment because it is good for taxpayers, consumers, farmers, businesses, highway safety, and the environment.

Respectfully,

Agribusiness Association of Iowa  
Agribusiness Council of Indiana  
Agriculture Transportation Coalition  
American Bakers Association  
American Beverage Association

American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Feed Industry Association  
American Frozen Food Institute  
American Fruit and Vegetable Processors and Growers Coalition  
American Soybean Association  
Beer Institute  
California Grain and Feed Association  
California League of Food Processors  
Corn Refiners Association  
Food Marketing Institute  
Forest Resources Association Inc.  
Frozen Potato Processors Institute  
Grain and Feed Association of Illinois  
Grocery Manufacturers Association  
International Dairy Foods Association  
International Foodservice Distributors Association  
Iowa Institute for Cooperatives  
Iowa Soybean Association  
Kansas Grain and Feed Association  
Kentucky Soybean Association  
Meat Import Council of America  
Midwest Food Processors Association  
Minnesota Grain and Feed Association  
Missouri Soybean Association  
National Association of Wheat Growers  
National Barley Growers Association  
National Cattlemen's Beef Association  
National Chicken Council  
National Confectioners Association  
National Corn Growers Association  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Farmers Union  
National Frozen Pizza Institute  
National Grain and Feed Association  
National Grocers Association  
National Hay Association  
National Milk Producers Federation  
National Oilseed Processors Association  
National Onion Association  
National Pork Producers Council  
National Potato Council  
National Renderers Association  
National Sunflower Association  
National Turkey Federation

Nebraska Grain and Feed Association  
Nebraska Soybean Association  
North American Meat Institute  
North Dakota Grain Dealers Association  
Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance  
Northwest Food Processors Association  
Ohio AgriBusiness Association  
Ohio Soybean Association  
Oklahoma Grain and Feed Association  
Rocky Mountain Agribusiness Association  
Shelf-Stable Food Processors Association  
Soy Transportation Coalition  
Texas Grain & Feed Association  
United Fresh Produce Association  
United States Hide, Skin and Leather Association  
USA Rice  
U.S. Apple Association  
U.S. Canola Association  
U.S. Forage Export Council  
U.S. Poultry & Egg Association  
Western Growers  
Wisconsin Agri-Business Association