



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS
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December 22, 2008

The Honorable Jim Oberstar
United States House of Representatives
2365 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Oberstar:

The National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT) has a long history of opposition to any proposed legislation to increase the legal size and weight limit of trucks because of the serious safety risks inherent in allowing heavier trucks on our nation's roads and highways.

Our bridges are in poor condition. One of every eight bridges -- 73,764 -- in the nation is structurally deficient. They were designed when trucks were much lighter. Until the mid-1970's, the legal limit on trucks was 73,280 pounds. Today it is 80,000 pounds. Supporters of bigger trucks want to increase truck weights to 97,000 pounds for single trailer trucks and over 100,000 pounds for double and triple trailer trucks.

We are writing to respectfully request that you continue to oppose any proposal to weaken our nation's current limitations on truck size or weight. The safety risks of allowing heavier trucks are just too great.

Please oppose all legislation to allow heavier, more dangerous trucks on our roads and highways, and sign on as a cosponsor of the Safe Highways and Infrastructure Preservation Act (SHIPA) next year.

Sincerely,

Patrick F. Moore
President, NAEMT