July 11, 2013

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster:

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 bridges. Representing over 35,000 EMS practitioners nationwide, NAEMT is concerned with the traveling public's safety and the safety of our members who put their lives at risk every day in response to highway emergencies.

According to the FMCSA Motor Carrier Management Information System (MCMIS), there were 64,325 injuries and 3,914 fatalities involving truck accidents in 2011. NAEMT members are on the scene for many of these accidents. Our members see first-hand the devastation that occurs when a semi-trailer and automobile collide. While trucks do not always cause these accidents, the end result is usually the same: those in the cars are the ones being treated and taken away in an ambulance. Increasing the size of trucks will exacerbate the problem.

NAEMT is also concerned with our members’ safety as they treat accident victims on the highways. While it may seem to be common sense for drivers to slow down near the scene of an accident, this is not always the case. Of ongoing concern to our members is the ability of large trucks traveling at high velocity to slow down on a timely basis. Increasing the size and weight of trucks only makes this inherently dangerous situation worse.

NAEMT requests your support for the safety of our first responders and asks that you oppose efforts to increase the size and weight of trucks on our roads.

Sincerely,

Don Lundy, BS, NREMT-P
President, NAEMT