



May 29, 2014

Dear Members of Congress,

We are writing on behalf of the nation's law enforcement officers and first responders to express our opposition to any truck size or weight increases. We understand that proposals to allow heavier trucks and thaw the freeze on longer combination vehicles are being considered as part of annual appropriations legislation. We urge you to reject these proposals.

Bigger trucks would add new dangers to our roads. Allowing heavier or longer trucks would threaten the safety of motorists as well as law enforcement officers and first responders because heavier and longer trucks would be more difficult to control, take longer to stop, and increase crash severity. Studies conducted by the U.S. Department of Transportation have found that trucks with multiple trailers and trucks that are heavier are associated with higher crash rates. (2000 US DOT Comprehensive Truck Size and Weight Study; 2013 US DOT "Desk Scan")

Bigger trucks also would impose a huge economic cost in terms of further damage to our already deteriorating highway infrastructure, the additional strain to our aging and deficient bridges and the costs associated with cleaning up crashes. These are additional costs that would be borne by all levels of government and ultimately by the taxpayers.

The current proposals to allow bigger trucks have not been the subject of congressional hearings. We question the appropriateness of making changes such as these that affect public safety in a funding bill without full and open public debate.

Representing law enforcement and first responders across the country, we are united in opposing bigger trucks. Not only do these trucks endanger the traveling public, but they also put at risk law enforcement officers and first responders. Please oppose any provisions that would increase the size or weight of trucks.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mat Hodapp".

Mat Hodapp
Chairman
National Troopers Coalition

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Lundy".

Don Lundy, BS, NREMT-P
President
National Association of
Emergency Management
Technicians

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aaron D. Kennard".

Aaron D. Kennard
Executive Director
National Sheriffs' Association