



National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians  
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May 5, 2017

The Honorable John Thune  
Chairman, Senate Commerce, Science,  
and Transportation Committee  
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

The Honorable Bill Nelson  
Ranking Member, Senate Commerce,  
Science, and Transportation Committee  
425 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Peter DeFazio  
Ranking Member, House Transportation  
and Infrastructure Committee  
2163 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Thune, Ranking Member Nelson, Chairman Shuster, Ranking Member DeFazio,

The National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT) has a long history of opposing any legislation that would increase the legal size or weight limits of trucks because of the serious safety risks inherent in allowing bigger trucks on our nation's roads and bridges. Representing over 60,000 EMS practitioners nationwide, NAEMT is concerned with motorists' safety and the safety of our members who put their lives at risk every day in response to roadside emergencies.

EMS professionals are in a unique position to evaluate the consequences of increasing the size or weight of trucks on the road today. The heavier the truck and the longer the truck, the larger the crash footprint and the more severe the crash. It comes down to the basic law of physics. Increasing the mass of a vehicle will increase the odds of more severe crashes and more deaths and injuries.

The size and weight of a truck also affects the safety of first responders as they treat crash victims on the roadside. Bigger trucks are more difficult to control and take longer to stop. While it may seem to be common sense for drivers to slow down near the scene of a crash, this is not always the case. Of ongoing concern to our members is the inability of larger trucks traveling at high speeds to slow down in a timely manner, especially during inclement weather. Increasing the size and weight of trucks only makes this inherently dangerous situation worse.

We agree with the recommendation made by the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) in its 2016 Truck Size and Weight Limits Study – there should be no increases in the size or weight of trucks.

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

Sincerely,

Dennis Rowe, NREMT-P  
NAEMT President