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ADMINISTRATION
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LEGS./REGS. DN.

February 2, 1997

Docket Clerk
Attn: FHWA Docket #MC-96-28
F.H.A.- D.O.T., Room 4232
400 7th St. SW
Washington, DC 20590

QA - 21492

FHWA 97-2358-39

Dear Sir or Madame:

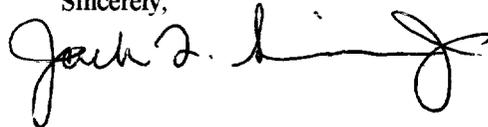
The fact that I am involved in the trucking industry brings me to write this letter. I have been a professional driver for a little more than five years. I have been employed as both an "over-the-road" and a "local" driver. What concerns me is all the articles I am reading in the industry publications about the proposed "Hours Of Service" changes which are looming on the horizon.

In my opinion some of these proposals would be detrimental to the safety of everyone using our nations highways. One being allowing a driver to regain his 70 hours of work time in 8 days after being off duty for a period of 24 hours. This is insanity. The only time a driver gets any time out of a truck (not to say anything about spending time with his family) is when he runs out of hours in many cases, especially in the case of over-the-road drivers. This isn't going to help matters for him or her to sleep a decent amount for one day. Many trucking companies already expect drivers to count the time they are sitting waiting to load or **unload** as their off duty break even though you can't sleep because a shipper or receiver isn't going to send someone out to wake you when they are ready for you!

So, what is the solution? On board recording devices. Make companies pay drivers a per hour rate instead of a per mile rate. Most of all, pay the driver for all hours worked. This eliminates drivers running double and triple log books trying to make up for lost time spent at shippers and receivers. On board recorders are very difficult to cheat. Also, make trucking companies allow the D.O.T. to match logs with satellite records. Why don't the companies want to share this information? Because they are pushing drivers and closing their eyes when logs and satellite info don't match up!

The company I am employed by now uses state of the art on board devices and pays us for all hours worked. They do not ask or tolerate a driver doing anything illegal. Everyone should be playing by these rules. I hope that maybe something I have said to you here helps in your decision process. I hope you make a decision which will benefit all Americans , including the truck drivers.

Sincerely,



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