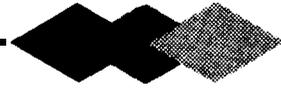


THE DIAMOND GROUP, INC.



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41 o-488-4000 . Fax 41 o-488-0760

December 20, 1996

QA-21435

FHWA -97-2350-20

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FEDERAL HIGHWAY
ADMINISTRATION

Docket Clerk
FHWA Docket #MC-96-28
Federal Highway Administration
Department of Transportation, Room 4232
400 7TH Street SW
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Gentlemen:

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on taking the initiative to change the hour of service rule that has been outdated for many years.

Our company operates a short haul operation and the 15 hours a day and 70 hours a week limit us from utilizing our drivers and equipment. Since all of our runs consist of 300 miles or less and our drivers are home Saturday morning every week, I don't feel total hours should continue into the next week. Each driver should start out Sunday night or Monday morning with zero (0) hours against his/hcr driving for the new week. A driver should be able to drive a total of 16 hours per day with an eight (8) hour break after ten (10) hours of driving on that day.

Since the purpose of these rules are for the safety of the public, I feel a company's safety record and accident history should be of more concern than logging hours. It is my personal opinion that the D.O.T. and local municipalities are using these rules as a money making tool and not a safety tool. The trucking industry has done almost everything possible to ensure the safety of our highways.

Sincerely,

Rick Balestrini
Vice President

DOCKET mc.96-28-54
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