

QA 30137

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12/19/97

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
97 DEC 29 AM 11:10
DOCKET SECTION

Docket Clerk
U.S. DOT Dockets
Room PL-401
400 Seventh Avenue
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Ref. Docket #FHWA-97-2759-55

Dear Sirs:

I would like to comment on the proposed changes to the Federal motor Carrier Safety Regulations concerning the driver's knowledge of the English language. I have been in management with a 375 power unit truck line for 11 years, with a large insurance company insuring DOT fleets for 10 years, and have been in transportation for 31 years. I would be opposed to changing the current regulations for the following reasons:

1. They work. They have been in use since the 1930's, and have served us very well for all of that time.

2. Everyone understands them. They are simple, easy to understand regulations. You can read them in 30 seconds and know how to see if a potential driver understands English.

3. The driver can't study just the "performance based" set of standards and not really know English as he doesn't know what questions the potential employer will ask. With a set of standards, all the driver needs to do is memorize the standards and ignore the rest of English. In a way, the regulations are already "performance based" as they require a driver to perform reading, writing, speaking, & understanding the English language to get hired.

4. The current regulations are already non-discriminatory. The ACLU's comments that the current regulations might violate the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is bull. The current regulations say nothing about race or national origin, they talk about whether you can handle English. Having hired many drivers, I know you are interested in whether they can do the job, not what color they are or whether they were not born in the U.S.

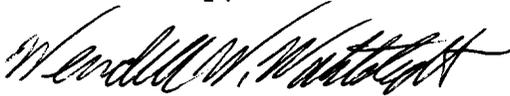
5. The current regulations are not overly broad. All they want you to do is to be proficient in English. This is the same thing we all want: the driver to be able to read the stop sign in front

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of him when your family is crossing the intersection in front of his truck.

Please contact me if you have any questions on this matter.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Wendell W. Wahlstedt".

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