



# Iowa Department of Transportation

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February 19, 1999

FHWA-98-4334-7  
MICHAEL THOMAS  
US DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION  
400 SEVENTH STREET SW  
WASHINGTON DC 20590

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
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DOCUMENT SECTION

Dear Mr. Thomas:

RE: Vision Waiver for Iowa Commercial Drivers

I have reviewed the January 12, 1999, letter from Paul Brennan regarding your office's intention to grant Iowa drivers an exemption from the vision regulation in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10).

The driving records for four of the five drivers are good and the likelihood of future violations appears low. This certainly seems in line with the philosophy of "achieving a level of safety equal to, or greater than, the level that would be achieved without the exemption."

The record for John Houston does not follow that trend. In 1995 he was disqualified for multiple serious violations, in 1996 he had a noncommercial speeding violation, in 1997 he had one commercial speeding violation and three noncommercial violations, and in 1998 was placed on probation for one year as a result of three or more moving violations within a 12-month period. To date, we have no record that Mr. Houston has violated the provisions of his probation which is scheduled to end on February 28, 1999; however, we believe his past driving record raises serious questions that he exercises the caution and diligence expected of a candidate for the vision waiver. I would suggest FHWA reconsider Mr. Houston's application.

If I may be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Terry L. Dillinger, Director  
Office of Driver Services

TLD:ks  
Enc.