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Raul Yzaguirre, President

126099

April 10, 2001

Docket No. FMCSA-2000-7017 - 14
U.S. Department of Transportation
Dockets Management Facility
Room PL-401
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

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DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations: Requirements for Operators of Small Passenger-Carrying Commercial Motor Vehicles

On behalf of the National Council of La Raza (NCLR) and the Farmworkers Justice Fund, Inc (FJF) we commend the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) for its commitment to passenger safety. We urge you to finalize your proposed rules covering commercial passenger vehicles carrying between 9 and 15 people as soon as possible and implementing them expeditiously.

Many farmworkers, most of them Latino migrant workers, travel from border states to the central U.S. states in commercial interstate passenger vans known as *camionetas*. Their safety depends on these vehicles being operated, maintained and regulated under stringent safety standards.

NCLR is a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization established in 1968 to reduce poverty and discrimination and improve life opportunities for Hispanic Americans. NCLR is the largest constituency-based national Hispanic organization, serving all Hispanics nationality groups in all regions of the country through our network of 230 affiliates community-based organizations and regional offices.

FJF is a litigation and advocacy organization based in Washington, D.C. that represents migrant and seasonal farmworkers around the nation. FJF advocates for farmworkers in the courts, state and federal administrative agencies, Congress, academia and the press. Its primary focus is on wage and working conditions, occupational health and safety, immigration status, and women's rights.



Program Offices: Phoenix, Arizona • San Antonio, Texas • Los Angeles, California • Chicago, Illinois
LA RAZA: The Hispanic People of the New World

NCLR Comments to FMCSA Docket No. 2000-7017
April 10, 2001
Page 2

Both NCLR and FJF thank you for your effort to ensure the safety of all passengers.

Sincerely,



Raul Yzaguirre
President
NCLR



Shelly Davis
Co-Executive Director
FJF