

Dear Sir or Madame,

It has come to our attention that the United States Department of Transportation is threatening to withhold funds to the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) which they receive through the grant program called Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program unless Oregon removes the law that currently exempts farm plated trucks from safety inspections.

The need to do any further inspection over what is currently being done is unnecessary. Statistically additional inspection of farm trucks is unwarranted. Farm trucks have been in less than 1% of the truck accidents from 1995 - 2001 and the vast majority of truck accidents are caused by driver error rather than mechanical failure. Even ODOT contends that additional inspections are not necessary.

As Government resources are at a very high premium, spending on additional inspections that have not been proven to even help the amount of accidents, would be wasteful.

Transportation Secretary Mineta suggested to OR Senator Ron Wyden that ODOT apply for a two year exemption from the requirement for inspection of farm plated trucks. Then at that time reevaluate as to whether there needs to be additional inspections at that time. This would be the best solution.

We would appreciate your help in finalizing this exemption.

Wade R. Flegel