

Owyhee View Farms  
1500 Napton Road  
Adrian, OR 97901  
January 22, 2003

FMCSA Docket No. FMCSA-2002-13295-4  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Dockets Management Facility, Rm PL-5)  
400 Seventh St., SW  
Washington, DC 20590-0001

To Whom It May Concern:

We operate farm-plated trucks to transport our crops to receiving facilities throughout eastern Oregon and western Idaho. The removal of special plate status would adversely affect our ability to transport our crops to market in a timely manner. Increased and overlapping regulations would prevent us from providing our products to the marketplace at the standards for freshness and quality that our consumers demand.

We are currently subject to Oregon Dept. of Transportation inspection and county inspections. We do regular scheduled maintenance, inspections, and repairs in our own shop. We have and will continue to maintain our trucks to the highest safety and quality standards in the industry. The current exemption for farm-plated trucks serves the state, farmers, and the public interest well.

There is no reason to place additional regulatory burdens on the state and farmers when the current system is working well and when it is not compromising the public's safety or the safety of those working in and around our farm plated trucks. The safety records of, and low number of accidents involving farm-plated trucks are a testament to the appropriateness of the current exemption. We have seen very few accidents related to farm-plated trucks in our state. The few accidents that have occurred have been the result of the actions of other vehicles or driver error. Our trucks travel mostly off of the most high volume thoroughfares because that is where our farms and many of our delivery points are located. In doing so, we are able to avoid the majority of traffic during the short farming season we have in our part of the state.

We support the position of the Oregon Department of Transportation and the Executive Committee of the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance calling for a 2-year renewable exemption. It is clear that the current cooperation between the Oregon Department of Transportation and farm-plated truck owners is promoting the safe operation of these trucks throughout the state of Oregon. An additional layer of regulation will have very little impact on the overall safety of these trucks but will have a major negative impact on farmers ability to transport their products to market efficiently.

Sincerely,  
Martin Fujishin  
Owner  
Owyhee View Farms