Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 1, 2018

The Honorable Cathy F. Gautreaux
Deputy Administrator
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: FMCSA 2017-0356, Hours of Service of Drivers: Application for Exemption; Owner Operator Independent Drivers Association, Inc.

Dear Deputy Administrator Gautreaux:

The best course of action with regards to the electronic logging device (ELD) mandate is still to issue a 90-day relief period for all sectors of the trucking industry as your agency continues to examine and adjudicate the numerous applications for exemptions and waivers. We write to you in support of one of those applications today: the ELD exemption of small trucking businesses with exemplary safety records.

We encourage the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) to grant this application submitted by the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association (OOIDA), which would provide reasonable relief from the costly and burdensome regulation for many of the trucking industry's safest and most experienced drivers.

OOIDA's request is responsibly constructed to ensure only motor carriers defined by the Small Business Administration (SBA) as a small-trucking business would qualify for relief from the $2 billion mandate. Additionally, the application stipulates that only motor carriers with a record of no at-fault crashes would be exempted and those with an 'Unsatisfactory' safety rating from FMCSA would not be eligible. By sustaining impeccable safety records, the motor carriers that would qualify have already demonstrated the use of an ELD will do nothing to improve their operations. Furthermore, OOIDA's request would prevent small trucking businesses, who operate on the slimmest of margins, from maintaining costly fleet management devices that provide them no economic or productivity benefits.

FMCSA has already granted several requests for exemption from the ELD mandate. Clearly, the agency is capable and willing to provide relief for industries who have demonstrated that exemptions will not decrease safety. In this regard, OOIDA's application for exemption is unquestionably consistent with those previously granted and merits the agency's approval. We believe this request is also wholly consistent with the Trump Administration's goal of providing relief from costly and burdensome federal regulations to American small businesses. Granting OOIDA's request would further illustrate the administration's commitment to delivering regulatory relief that will help sustain economic growth.

Sincerely,

Brian Babin, D.D.S. (TX-36)
U.S. Representative

Steve King (IA-04)
U.S. Representative

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