



Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives

Bill Shuster
Chairman

Washington, DC 20515

Peter A. DeFazio
Ranking Member

Christopher P. Bertram, Staff Director

March 29, 2016

Katherine W. Dedrick, Democratic Staff Director

Dear Democratic Colleague:

I write regarding my serious concerns with an outrageous trucking provision included in the controversial Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization bill. Section 611 of H.R. 4441, the “Aviation Innovation, Reform, and Reauthorization Act of 2016” (AIRR Act), pre-empts meal and rest break laws for truck drivers in 21 States and wipes out at least 50 pending lawsuits regarding state hour and wage laws. Section 611 also restricts the ability of States to improve truck driver working conditions and pay.

Section 611 is strongly opposed by the Teamsters, safety advocates, and the American Association for Justice. The trucking industry is split on Section 611. Smaller owner operators – which represent more than 90 percent of the companies in the industry – strongly oppose Section 611.

Debate surrounding Section 611 has been filled with misinformation and misrepresentations. Under the guise of solving an interstate commerce issue, Section 611 pre-empts intrastate laws related to meal breaks, rest breaks, and hourly tracking of wages for truck drivers, and it restricts States’ abilities to promote healthy working conditions for truck drivers. To correct the record, I submitted the attached statement in the *Congressional Record*, detailing the effects of Section 611 on state trucking laws.

If you have any questions, please contact me or the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit Democratic Staff (ext. 59989).

Sincerely,



PETER DeFAZIO
Ranking Member