

Friday, August 24, 2001

Sirs ,

I'm writting this letter in regards to the article in the Truckers news paper. Dated August 13 thru 26, 2001. I have a few comments on the new laws being proposed on docket FMCSA 2001- 9709. I have been driving since 1978, so personely I have seen most of the changes, some good some not good. I know your Dept has safety for the highways 1st priority and I commend you in that effort.

First place I want to point out that the laws concerning log books, driver service hours, and a lot of the other rules being enforced were put together 50 years ago. Trucks and drivers were not as advanced as they are today. Drivers then had no air conditioning, heat, air ride suspension, radio, and so forth. The times were hard and at that time 4 lane interstates didnt exsist, speeds were slower actually half of what we can easily do now. Drivers had to sit on boxes instead of air seats on some trucks simply because the extra freight had to be on that truck to fill an order. The driver of today is constantly being given cources on safety, thru their companys,or other agencys. Rules on top of rules is not the answer to the problem of safety in our trucking industry. The one thing it seems the general population has not given thought to is the simple fact, they know very little or in some cases nothing, about the mechanical workings of their own vehicle and the same is true when asked about 80000 lbs of truck. The driver of today is well versed in the workings of his or her vehicle, maybe if the

regular motorist was required to have a basic idea of the stopping distance, the time it takes for air brakes to actually apply after being pressed, they might not be so willing to cut in front of a large truck, or follow so closely the driver cant see them in their mirrors. Instead of adding new rules to old, make some new ones regarding educating every person applying for a driver licence, to pass a few basic questions about heavy trucks. Knowledge is the key to progress in safety issues, not rules that can put bigger burdens on a already burdened industry. Thank you for your time and I hope this has given new insight to the resolution of an ongoing situation. The Parents against Tired Drivers sounds like a very worthwild group, but keep in mind these are some of the same people who loads the family in the mini van or RV and drive 20 hours straight thru to get to Disney World or the beach to spend the weekend simply because their tickets are only good for that day. Thank you for your time, as I hope this letter will be recorded as being not in favor of the laws being proposed.

Sincerely,  
Brian Sanders