

# Free-market Coalition Voices Support for Hours of Service Proposed Rule

September 3, 2019

Raymond P. Martinez  
Administrator  
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Martinez:

The undersigned organizations write in strong support of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) proposed rulemaking on changes to hours of service (HOS) regulations for commercial drivers.

**We applaud the Trump Administration for proposing to correct the current HOS rules which are outdated and force a one-size-fits-all approach on our nation's commercial drivers.**

The trucking industry is a vital component of the American economy and employs over 7 million people and accounts for roughly 70 percent of domestic freight moved. It is necessary that the regulatory framework we ask commercial vehicle drivers to operate under promotes safety and efficiency while reflecting the conditions and realities drivers face every day.

Under current HOS regulations, truck drivers are forced to operate under a regulatory system that results in more unsafe driving situations as drivers feel they are "racing the clock." Current HOS regulations fail to acknowledge the realities of traffic, road conditions, weather and long waiting lines at origins and destinations encountered by drivers. Instead, drivers should be allowed greater flexibility to take a break when they feel it is needed rather than Washington bureaucrats mandating their breaks for them.

**FMCSA's newly proposed rule provides flexibility for commercial vehicle drivers while prioritizing safety and promoting efficiency.** The proposed rule provides common sense revisions to the existing regulations such as allowing drivers to apply the 30-minute break rule while drivers are in "on duty, not driving" status rather than "off duty" status. This obvious fix would allow drivers to take their required break while waiting for inclement weather to pass or traffic conditions to improve rather than having to be fully off duty.

FMCSA's proposed rule on HOS regulations would also provide a boost for the economy. According to FMCSA's estimates, adopting the rule would provide \$274 million in savings for Americans consumers and the economy.



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We urge FMCSA to adopt the proposed rule on HOS and thank the Trump DOT and FMCSA for acting to address these overburdensome regulations which hamper economic productivity and are contrary to FMCSA's top priority of safety on America's roadways.

Sincerely,

Grover Norquist  
President, Americans for Tax Reform

Phil Kerpen  
President, American Commitment

Rick Manning  
President, Americans for Limited Government

Brent Wm. Gardner  
Chief Government Affairs Officer, Americans for Prosperity

Olivia Grady  
Senior Fellow, Center for Worker Freedom

George Landrith  
President, Frontiers of Freedom

Seton Motley  
President, Less Government

Harry Alford  
President & CEO, National Black Chamber of Commerce

Pete Sepp  
President, National Taxpayers Union

Satnam Singh  
Community Relations Manager, Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund

David Williams  
President, Taxpayers Protection Alliance

Maureen Blum  
Executive Director, USA Workforce Coalition

