

Hi,I am making a comment on the upcoming hours of service changes.I have been a city driver and dockman for various union trucking companies for the last 27 years.In the nineteen century Lincoln freed the slaves,in the twentyth century Americans fought to keep us free,and now going into the twenty first century truck drivers are still going to be enslaved to the steering wheel.There should be no reason why a driver should be forced to work over 10 hours!Must we be slaves to an employers greed.How do you expect a driver that starts at 9 am to come in to work,load his own truck go out and deliver the freight,make pickups,come back to the terminal unload his truck and be fresh for the next day.It was bad enough when the employers were forcing us to work 15 hours,12 hours isn` t much of a change.Duh,why can` t they get help,and then they start your pay at 15 percent of a guy thats been there for 3 years even if you have 20 years experiance and he has 5 years,when a driver leaves on Friday and doesn` t get home for two weeks.What happened to family friendly?How do you help raise a family when you are away from home 12 to 15 hours a day.Easy you cut down on the amount of sleep you get.So what if the highways aren` t safe.The employers don` t care until you kill somebody,then its all your fault.If you complain about unsafe equipment your a trouble maker,if you complain about being forced to pull overloads your a trouble maker,if you complain about hours of service violations your a trouble maker.It is even worse for road drivers.Getting paid by the mile or load automatically makes you a risk to excede the regulations.I don` t feel protected by the regulations and I have been a union driver,what do you think happens to the non-union drivers if they complain.How many people got killed or injured by heavy trucks last year? Did you really do anything to prevent it or are your rules just window dressing? I have been harassed for complaining about overloads,I have been harassed for complaining about haz-mat violations,I have been harassed about complaining about hours of service violations,I have been harassed for complaining about unsafe equipment.I wouldn` t recommend that anyone become a truck driver unless they like abuse.Yes ladies and gentlemen now we are only going to be forced to work 12 hours a day,such a deal!After 10 hours on duty you should be able to have the rest of the day for rest and relaxation,and to take care of the business at home.Don` t be a stooge for the employers they don` t care about their employee`s or the safety of the other drivers on the roads,all they care about is making money.