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Subject : Comments on Proposed Hours of Service Rule

My name is Troy M. Jacobson and I have been driving a commercial motor vehicle for over sixteen years. I want to go on record as opposed to the driver hours of service you are proposing.

This proposal will increase the number of hours of rest mandated for drivers, yet nothing has been done to provide us safe places to rest. Mandatory rest in unsafe areas will not provide restorative rest. Also, if the ten hour rest period has to restart if the driver is disturbed, drivers will lose valuable time just resetting the rest period.

The opportunity for me to earn a living wage will be dramatically decreased under this proposal. At a time when trucking companies cannot find enough trained drivers, it is unwise to adopt rules that will require more drivers. Under these rules, this industry will be lucky to keep the current drivers.

I enjoy spending time with my family. Required weekend rests away from home will not provide an environment where I can gain adequate rest. It will be extremely frustrating to know that I am unable to travel home, albeit thirty miles, even though I know that I am able to safely operate a commercial vehicle. I am also concerned about how drivers will spend their ten hours off-duty. In a time when the political arena is pushing family involvement and values, how can the government propose a ruling that would take a family figure away from the family and leave him/her sitting at a truck stop for up to eighty hours? With this amount of idle time away from friends and loved ones, a driver may be tempted to engage in illegal, immoral, and unsafe activities.

While I appreciate your attempts to address differing needs in the trucking industry, this proposal could be improved. The American Trucking Association's recommendations that we have fourteen hours on duty in a twenty-four hour workday and providing a thirty-four hour rest that restarts the clock would be a start at improving this proposal.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

  
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