

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
DOCKETS

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Subject: Comments on Proposed Hours of Service Rule

Dear:

FMCSA-97-2350-21989

My name is Matt Schultz and I am a School Bus Contractor and Operator. I have been contracting and operating a school bus for 23 years. Over those years I have built a reputation of quality service to my school district. I am very concerned that the new Proposed Hours of Service rule will severely harm the School Bus industry. I am also concerned that it will affect my ability to make a living.

The proposed rule will regulate the hours that a driver must be off duty. It states that after five working days, a driver must have a minimum of 34 consecutive hours "off duty" before they may come "on duty" again. This rule would make all route drivers (who drive five days a week for generally 3 - 4 hours a day) ineligible to drive any activity trips on the weekend. With the limited number of Qualified School Bus Drivers in our State, this would curtail the amount of extracurricular activities that the school would be able to offer our students.

The problem with the *Proposed Hours of Service Rule* is that the DOT has combined the trucking industry with the School Bus Industry. The two industries need to be separated, and hours of service regulations need to be established for each. It seems that the federal government does not want to separate the two industries, and simply does not want to deal with the extra paperwork that would be involved in separating these two industries. I understand that the issue at hand is safety, but there is no scientific documentation and there have not been any scientific studies that have been done to warrant such drastic changes to the School Bus industry.

In conclusion, I am asking our congressman and congressional candidates to address our concerns in Washington D.C. School Buses are an essential part of our children's education. Please help in our cause to find a better solution to the *Proposed Hours of Service Rule*. One that is structured for the school bus industry. Thank you for your time in this matter.

Sincerely:

Signed Matt Schultz Date 10-17-00

Print Name Matt Schultz

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