



American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO

1300 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005

June 17, 2016

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

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Dear President Obama:

On behalf of the more than 200,000 active and retired members of the American Postal Workers Union (APWU), including 8,000 postal truck drivers, we write in opposition to pending legislation which would weaken trucking safety regulations. In particular, Section 131 of H.R. 2577, the appropriations bill for the Departments of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, military construction, and the Department of Veterans' Affairs and related agencies for FY 2017, contains a provision which blocks implementation of the Department of Transportation's (DOT) "Hours of Service" regulation.

This proposal contained in section 131 would jeopardize public safety in order to squeeze a few extra hours out of already overworked truck drivers. In 2006, the DOT found that 65 percent of truck drivers reported symptoms of fatigue while driving. Truckers working too much and resting too little can have dire consequences. As evidenced by the National Transportation Safety Board, between 30 and 40 percent of heavy truck crashes may be attributable to sleep deprivation or driver fatigue.

The APWU is committed to safety on the road, both for our members and for the nation as a whole. Towards that goal, last year we successfully opposed the National Star Route Mail Contractors Association when the company sought an exemption to DOT's "14-hour rule." Such an exemption would have dangerously allowed drivers working for the contractors to operate trucks after being on duty more than 14 hours following a break of less than 10 hours.

We were greatly encouraged by the veto threat in the Office of Management and Budget's May 16th Statement of Administration Policy with respect to dangerous riders, which includes the section 131 provision on "Hours of Service." Should this appropriations bill be presented to you with the truck driver "Hours of Service" provision included, we strongly urge you to veto it.

The APWU stands ready to work with you and your administration to maintain and expand safety on our roads. If we can of any assistance, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Mark Dimondstein
President

Michael O. Foster
Director, Motor Vehicle Service Division