

Congress of the United States.
Washington, DC 20515

January 26, 2011

James P. Hoffa
General President
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
25 Louisiana Avenue Northwest
Washington, DC 20001

Dear James:

I am writing to let you know that I have contacted the House Transportation and Infrastructure and Homeland Security Committees to request hearings on the Obama Administration's proposed Mexican trucks program.

My Congressional District encompasses the entire California/Mexican border, and is home to some of our nation's busiest border crossings. I do not believe the Administration has any real sense of the impact of their proposal on road safety, border wait times, jobs, or national security. Enclosed are letters that I sent to the Committees expressing my concerns.

Until these serious issues are addressed, any proposal to allow Mexican trucks access to our roadways will make our nation's roads less safe, will further lengthen border wait times, will put Americans out of work, and will expose Americans to additional national security threats.

I hope that we can work together to educate Members of Congress and the Obama Administration on the dangers posed by these trucks. If you have questions about my letters, please feel welcome to contact me or Sharon Wagner at 202-225-8045.

Sincerely,



BOB FILNER
Member of Congress

BF/sw
Enclosures
2564001

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 26, 2011

The Honorable John Mica
Chairman

U.S. House of Representatives

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nick Rahall
Ranking Member

U.S. House of Representatives

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2163 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Duncan Jr.
Chairman

U.S. House of Representatives

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Subcommittee on Highways and Transit
B370A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Ranking Member

U.S. House of Representatives

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Subcommittee on Highways and Transit
B375 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Mica:

I write to express my concerns about the U.S. Department of Transportation's recent proposal for a new border trucking program with Mexico. I urge the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to hold hearings on this proposal.

My Congressional District encompasses the entire California/Mexican border, and is home to some of our nation's busiest border crossings. I do not believe the Administration has any real sense of the impact of their proposal on road safety, border wait times, jobs, or national security.

Despite assurances from the Department of Transportation, I am not convinced that appropriate checks are in place to ensure the safety of Mexican trucks that are coming across the border or to ensure the drivers are appropriately trained and abide by hours-of-service regulations. Not only are there insufficient personnel to perform truck safety inspections, but it is also far too easy to forge drivers' certifications and log-books. Without appropriate checks, Mexican trucks will continue to pose a safety hazard to the traveling public and should not be allowed on our roads.

I am also concerned about traffic congestion at our land ports-of-entry, and the impact of these new trucks on border wait times. Many of my constituents already have to wait in lines several hours each day to cross the border. Allowing more Mexican trucks into the United States will further lengthen border wait times. We simply do not have enough Border Patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents at the border to deal with the existing traffic or the heavy burden of this proposed program.

Allowing Mexican trucks into the United States would also harm American workers. Unemployment is still high across the United States. We cannot allow low-wage Mexican drivers to put our nation's truck drivers out of work and our trucking companies out of business.

The Mexican government has stated that it will allow reciprocal access for American trucks in Mexico, but this proposal is laughable! The horrifying drug violence in Mexico makes certain that American truckers are not safe crossing the border. Even the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has warned trucking

The Honorable John L. Mica

January 26, 2011

Page 2

companies to stay out of Mexico due to the high number of hijackings. The DHS report stated: "In 2010, criminals hijacked over 10,000 commercial trucks in Mexico." The report goes on to state: "Although drug trafficking organizations have used C-TPAT (Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism) program companies to smuggle illicit cargo, program vulnerabilities may also provide opportunities for terrorist organizations to cross international land borders with less scrutiny."

Until these serious issues are addressed, any proposal to allow Mexican trucks access to our roadways will make our nation's roads less safe, will further lengthen border wait times, will put Americans out of work, and will expose Americans to additional national security threats.

Again, I urge the Committee to hold hearings as soon as possible so that we can learn more about the Administration's plans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "BF", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

BOB FILNER
Member of Congress

BF/sw
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Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 27, 2011

The Honorable Peter King
Chairman
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Homeland Security
H2-176 Ford House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bennie Thompson
Ranking Member
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Homeland Security
H2-117 Ford House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman King:

I write to express my concerns about the U.S. Department of Transportation's recent proposal for a new border trucking program with Mexico. I urge the Homeland Security Committee to hold hearings on this proposal.

My Congressional District encompasses the entire California/Mexican border, and is home to some of our nation's busiest border crossings. I do not believe the Administration has any real sense of the impact of their proposal on road safety, border wait times, jobs, or national security.

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Page 2

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BOB FILNER
Member of Congress

BF/sw
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