

January 8, 2018

*Via email & regulations.gov*

Cathy F. Gautreaux,  
Deputy Administrator  
Federal Motor Carrier Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: Hours of Service of Drivers of Commercial Motor Vehicles; Proposed Regulatory Guidance Concerning the Transportation of Agricultural Commodities [Docket No. FMCSA–2017–0360]**

On behalf of the undersigned organizations representing several segments of the agricultural industry, the Agricultural & Food Transporters Conference (AFTC) requests a 30-day extension to the comment period for the proposed guidance concerning the transportation of Agricultural Commodities that was published in the Federal Register on December 20, 2017 (see 82 Federal Register 60360).

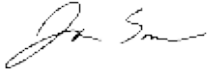
The Agricultural and Food Transporters Conference is the national organization representing motor carrier and allied members of the American Trucking Associations on critical issues affecting agricultural commodity and food transportation. Founded in 1995, AFTC's mission is to increase the safety, security, profitability and efficiency of transporters of agricultural commodities, food, forest products and natural resources; and to serve as the advocate for its members within the American Trucking Associations and before the government, other organizations and the public.

Our coalition has been working closely with FMCSA over the past few years to ensure our products continue to be transported in a safe and efficient manner, while minimizing any unnecessary burdensome requirements. Most recently we secured an exemption, and subsequently a change in law, to the mandatory 30 minute rest break for livestock haulers during their first eight hours of on-duty time. This modification of regulation is representative of positive change for an industry that requires additional flexibility to safely transport their products.

As you know, the agricultural exemption to the HOS rule has been in place since 1995. The exemption, along with our respective industries, has evolved over time and the current FMCSA proposal is an understanding by the Agency that our industry continues to evolve to this day. We are thankful to the Agency for providing this opportunity to comment, but due to the complexity of the issue and the diversity of our different industries, we request this extension of the comment period in order to properly address each segment's needs, respectively.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. I look forward to your response and am available should you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Sincerely,



Jon Samson  
Executive Director  
Agricultural & Food Transporters Conference of ATA

On Behalf of:

American Beekeeping Federation  
American Cattle Transporters Advisory Group  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Horse Council  
American Sheep Industry Association  
American Quarter Horse Association  
California Cattlemen's Association  
Florida Cattlemen's Association  
Iowa Cattlemen's Association  
Kansas Livestock Association  
Livestock Marketing Association  
Montana Stockgrowers Association  
National Aquaculture Association  
National Cattlemen's Beef Association  
National Milk Producers Federation  
National Pork Producers Council  
Nebraska Cattlemen's Association  
North American Meat Institute  
Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association  
Texas Cattle Feeders Association  
U.S Cattlemen's Association  
Wyoming Stock Growers Association

cc: Tom Yager, Chief, Driver and Carrier Operations Div. (MC-PSD)