

September 6, 2017

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Transportation and Housing

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Transportation and Housing

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Transportation and Housing

The Honorable David Price
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Transportation and Housing

Dear Chairman Cochran, Frelinghuysen, Collins, Diaz-Balart, and Ranking Members Leahy, Reed, Lowey, and Price,

We write on behalf of thousands of cattle, swine, horse, lamb, fish, and insect producers and haulers across the country to encourage adoption of section 132 of H.R. 3353, the FY 2018 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies (THUD) Act of 2018. This important provision would delay implementation of the electronic logging device (ELD) enforcement date for livestock and insect haulers for one year.

The transportation of live animals presents unique welfare challenges to the commercial trucking industry and a one-size-fits-all approach simply will not work. The live animal hauling industry needs more time to seek specific Hours of Service (HOS) flexibilities from Congress and the Department of Transportation, as well as time for live animal haulers and enforcement agents to become better informed of recent regulatory interpretations of current agricultural exemptions. Both objectives can be accomplished by extending the current ELD enforcement deadline of December 18, 2017, by at least one year.

While motorist safety is a top priority for all involved, current HOS rules simply do not work in the live animal hauling context. The current HOS rules put animals at risk of higher incidence of

stress-induced disease and mortality. To maintain animal welfare and preserve driver safety, industry needs more time to address the current HOS rules and work collaboratively with enforcement agencies to craft solutions to the problem. While those conversations with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) have been ongoing, the looming ELD enforcement date simply does not allow for enough time to reach a workable solution.

Furthermore, in May 2017, FMCSA issued a new interpretation that will allow time spent loading and hauling livestock within a 150-air mile radius of the point of origin of those livestock to count as exempt time. Although industry applauds this interpretation and is working with FMCSA to better understand the parameters of the exemption, more time is needed. Additional time will allow industry to get the information out to live animal haulers and enforcement agents regarding the interpretation. More time will help these key stakeholders understand how the exemption works. This will prevent unnecessary hassle at roadside stops and aid in safe transportation of animals, smoother implementation of FMCSA rules and guidance, and better acceptance of the technology from the livestock hauling community.

The undersigned organizations support the ELD enforcement delay and respectfully request section 132 of H.R. 3353 be maintained in the Make America Secure and Prosperous Appropriations Act of 2018. Thank you in advance for your positive consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Alabama Cattlemen's Association
American Beekeeping Federation
American Foods Group
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Honey Producers Association
American National Cattlemen
American Sheep Industry
Arizona Cattle Feeders Association
Arizona Cattle Growers' Association
Arkansas Cattlemen's Association
Arkansas Livestock Marketing Association
Calico Beef Consulting
California Cattlemen's Association
Colorado Cattlemen's Association
Colorado Livestock Association
Colorado Livestock Marketing Association
Cooper Horse Transportation
Florida Cattlemen's Association
Florida Livestock Auction Markets Association
Georgia Cattlemen's Association

Georgia Livestock Marketing Association
Illinois Beef Association
Iowa Cattlemen's Association
Kansas Livestock Association
Kansas Livestock Marketing Association
Kentucky Cattlemen's Association
Livestock Marketing Association
Michigan Cattlemen's Association
Minnesota Honey Producers Association
Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association
Mississippi Cattlemen's Association
Montana Stockgrowers Association
National Aquaculture Association
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
National Pork Producers Council
Nebraska Cattlemen
Nebraska Livestock Markets Association
Nevada Cattlemen's Association
New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association
New Mexico Wool Growers, Inc.
New York Beef Producers' Association
North American Meat Institute
North Carolina Cattlemen's Association
North Dakota Livestock Marketing Association
North Dakota Stockmen's Association
Ohio Cattlemen's Association
Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association
Oklahoma Livestock Marketing Association
Oregon Cattlemen's Association
Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association
Pennsylvania Livestock Marketing Association
South Carolina Livestock Marketing Association
South Dakota Cattlemen's Association
South Dakota Livestock Auction Market Association
Southwest Meat Association
Tennessee Cattleman's Association
Texas Cattle Feeders Association
Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association
United States Cattlemen's Association
Utah Cattlemen's Association
Virginia Cattlemen's Association
Virginia Livestock Marketing Association
Washington Cattlemen's Association

Washington Cattle Feeders Association
West Virginia Livestock Marketing Association
Wisconsin Cattlemen's Association
Wyoming Livestock Markets Association
Wyoming Stock Growers Association