

The Board of Supervisors

County Administration Building
651 Pine Street, Room 106
Martinez, California 94553

John Gioia, 1st District
Candace Andersen, 2nd District
Diane Burgis, 3rd District
Karen Mitchoff, 4th District
Federal D. Glover, 5th District

Contra Costa County



David Twa
Clerk of the Board
and
County Administrator
(925) 335-1900

April 10, 2018

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senate
331 Hart Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kamala Harris
U.S. Senate
112 Hart Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for the Coalition Against Bigger Trucks initiative opposing increases in truck length and weight.

Dear Senators Feinstein and Harris:

We are reaching out to share our concerns about proposals that would bring longer and heavier trucks to our roads and bridges. Contra Costa County opposes any effort at the federal level to increase truck size and weight. Such increases would endanger motorists, damage state and local roads and bridges, and increase costs to motorists and taxpayers. California's congressional delegation overwhelmingly opposed several proposals in Congress in 2015 that called for increases in truck size and weight—we are writing now to ensure that opposition continues.

While we recognize the important role that tractor-trailer trucks have in keeping our economy moving, we believe that any potential benefits of bigger and heavier trucks will be offset by the additional damage to local infrastructure, as well as the safety risk that heavier and longer trucks will bring to our roadways.

The U.S. Department of Transportation in their 2016 Comprehensive Truck Size and Weight Study found that heavier trucks of 91,000 to 97,000 pounds would cause an additional \$1.1 - \$2.2 billion in damages to our bridges. The study also determined that longer double-trailer trucks would add an additional \$1.2 – \$1.8 billion in pavement damage. The addition of a sixth axle would only mitigate additional damage, and would have no affect at all unless the weight distribution is evenly

placed over each axle, which rarely happens. As you well know, California reflects an aging network of roads and bridges. These proposals are coming at a time when many counties across our state have seen a declining stream of funding for road projects and general maintenance.

Thank you for standing up for highway safety and the integrity of our roads and bridges. Please oppose any legislation that seeks to increase the weight and length of tractor-trailer trucks.

Sincerely,

Karen Mitchoff, Chair
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

cc: Cindy Mills, Coalition Against Bigger Trucks