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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**STATEMENT BY COALITION FOR TRANSPORTATION PRODUCTIVITY IN
RESPONSE TO TRUCK SAFETY COALITION CAMPAIGN TO REJECT
WEIGHT INCREASES FOR TRUCKS TRAVELING ON U.S. HIGHWAYS**

“There is substantial evidence that improving trucking industry productivity through carefully constructed higher vehicle weight limits on federal highways will save lives by making highways safer and less congested. Multiple studies have demonstrated that six-axle vehicles can carry up to 97,000 pounds and reduce highway accidents. A proposal like HR 1799, the Safe and Efficient Transportation Act of 2009, can make our highways safer, and will also contribute to greater economic growth while reducing fuel usage and lowering carbon emissions.

“We are asking Congress to address this issue now before America’s highways become even more congested. Freight hauled by trucks in the U.S. is expected to double by 2025, and truck traffic is growing 11 times faster than road capacity. If current vehicle limitations remain in place, more trucks will have to take to the road in an effort to meet rising demand. Multiple studies have shown that increased gross vehicle weights on units with an additional axle will both advance shipping productivity and improve highway safety.

“A Wisconsin study conducted in 2009 found that if the federal government increased weight limits to 98,000 pounds for units with a sixth-axle, there would have been 90 fewer accidents involving heavy trucks in the state of Wisconsin. Employers in the state would have saved more than \$150 million in transportation costs.

“In 2001, the United Kingdom raised the gross vehicle weight limit for six-axle trucks to 97,000 pounds. Since then, the total tonnage shipped has increased while the vehicle miles traveled to deliver those goods has leveled off. Most importantly, fatal truck-related accident rates have declined. This outcome is exactly what we would like to replicate in the U.S. – safer, more efficient truck transportation.”

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE SAFETY, ECONOMIC, AND
ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF INCREASED TRUCK WEIGHT LIMITS, PLEASE
CALL JOHN RUNYAN AT 202.628.1308 OR BETH DOZIER AT 202.429.1833 AND
VISIT TRANSPORTATIONPRODUCTIVITY.ORG.**



About the Coalition for Transportation Productivity

The Coalition for Transportation Productivity (CTP) is a coalition of shippers and allied associations dedicated to increasing the vehicle weight limit to 97,000 pounds on federal interstate highways for vehicles equipped with an additional axle as a way to address the safety, economic and environmental challenges facing our nation's freight transportation network. CTP supports a user fee on units equipped with the additional axle to be used for bridge repair. For more information, visit www.transportationproductivity.org.

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