



Maine State Troopers Association

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April 12, 2010

The Honorable Michael Michaud
U.S. House of Representatives
1724 Longworth HOB
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Michaud:

Since 2005, I have supported efforts to increase the gross vehicle weights on Maine's Interstate. Initially, I did so in my capacity as Chief of the Maine State Police. After retiring in 2007, I moved into the private sector as a labor consultant providing services to, among others, the Maine State Troopers Association (MSTA). It is on their behalf that I write today. I might add that my personal sentiments in support these efforts have not wavered and if anything have strengthened.

The statistics continue to support the increase, both from an economic, and to my mind most importantly, a public safety standpoint. The one-year pilot program will provide yet another opportunity for due diligence on the part of policy makers and policy implementers by way of an analytical survey of the results of moving heavy trucks off the secondary roads and on to the Interstate system which was engineered for such traffic. These policy decisions should be based on facts and not simply emotion or speculation.

MSTA's members are on the front line of Maine's highway safety efforts and are responsible for enforcing State and Federal commercial vehicle laws and regulations. They see no down side to this proposal. While the naysayers believe it will increase risk, the data does not support that notion. And as compelling as the data is, it also just makes sense.

Safety remains the primary concern of Maine's Troopers. For that reason, we offer our support in your efforts to increase the weight from 80,000 to 97,000 pounds for six-axle semi-trailers on the non-exempt portion of Maine's Interstate.

Thank you for your efforts on this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Craig A. Poulin
Executive Director, MSTA