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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6175

RYAN JACKSON, MAJORITY STAFF DIRECTOR  
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April 14, 2016

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
S-128 United States Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and  
Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
184 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Vice Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
S-146A United States Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and  
Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
125 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Cochran and Collins, Vice Chairwoman Mikulski and Ranking Member Reed:

I understand that the Senate Appropriations Committee plans to markup the Fiscal Year 2017 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) appropriations bill in the near future. I applaud your efforts to move this important spending bill in a bipartisan manner.

I am writing to urge you to oppose any efforts to attach to the THUD appropriations bill an outrageous provision that would dock the pay of truck drivers by attacking state laws that protect their pay during bathroom or lunch breaks, or when performing necessary activities like loading or unloading a truck. This provision is a poison pill and I will use every tool at my disposal to oppose any legislation that includes it.

If anyone told us to dock our employees when they take a meal or bathroom break, we would think it was outrageous. Yet, that is exactly what this provision in would do to truck drivers. Truck drivers get paid for meal and bathroom breaks under the laws of 20 states. But truck drivers in all 50 states would be affected by this dangerous provision because their states would be barred from passing laws that protect them from being docked not only for bathroom and meal breaks, but for "non-driving" responsibilities, such as loading the truck. This provision overturns court decisions reaching all the way to the Supreme Court.

This terrible anti-safety provision is a poison pill and including it in the THUD appropriations bill would end any chance of the bill moving swiftly in the Senate and I urge that it not be included in this legislation.

Sincerely,



Barbara Boxer  
Ranking Member