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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6175

RYAN JACKSON, MAJORITY STAFF DIRECTOR
BETTINA POIRIER, DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

The Honorable John Thune
Chairman
Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bill Nelson
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation
425 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

February 25, 2016

Dear Senators Thune and Nelson:

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 a provision in the House FAA bill does to truck drivers.

First of all, this damaging provision is in a bill not about surface transportation, but about aviation. We recently stopped this provision from being included in the highway bill.

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 has no place in the FAA bill. I ask that it not be included in this legislation.

Sincerely,



Barbara Boxer
Ranking Member