



**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure**

**Washington, DC 20515**

**James L. Oberstar**  
**Chairman**

**John L. Mica**  
**Ranking Republican Member**

David Heysfeld, Chief of Staff  
Ward W. McCarragher, Chief Counsel

James W. Coon II, Republican Chief of Staff

January 18, 2008

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye  
United States Senator  
Chairman, Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation  
560 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

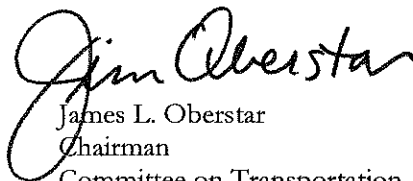
Dear Chairman Inouye:


We write to encourage you to move H.R. 1773, the "Safe American Roads Act", through the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.

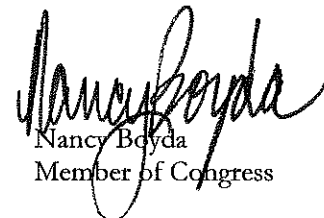
As you know, in September, the Department of Transportation (DOT) rushed to open our border to Mexican trucks through its cross-border trucking demonstration project. In response, Congress sent a clear message to the Administration in the FY 2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 110-161). P.L. 110-161 prohibits DOT from spending FY 2008 funding on the cross-border pilot. Yet, Secretary Peters is determined to continue with the pilot program, in clear violation of Federal law.

H.R. 1773 would force DOT to slow down, while requiring DOT and the Inspector General to fully test and evaluate the safety impacts of allowing Mexican carriers to operate without restriction in the U.S. by expanding the timeframe for the demonstration program to three years. The bill does not provide blanket authority for three years: if the Secretary fails to comply with any provision of the Act, the authority to conduct the program terminates. Significantly, the bill also requires additional action by Congress before DOT could move beyond the pilot program to full border opening. On April 25, 2007 this bill overwhelmingly passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 411 - 3.

We must ensure that DOT does not rush to fully open the border without proper protections in place. The safety of the American public is at stake. We thank you for your attention to our concerns and urge you to pass H.R. 1773 through your Committee.

  
James L. Oberstar  
Chairman  
Committee on Transportation  
and Infrastructure

Sincerely,  
  
Peter A. DeFazio  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Highways  
and Transit

  
Nancy Boyda  
Member of Congress