



## Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association

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The Honorable Duncan Hunter  
2265 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Hunter,

On behalf of America's small-business trucking professionals, I would like to convey our enthusiastic support for the NAFTA Trucking Safety Act of 2007. This bill will ensure that Mexico-domiciled trucks, trucking companies and drivers are held to the same standards as their American counterparts. It will also guarantee U.S. enforcement officials have the same capability to enforce laws and regulations that apply to Mexican truck drivers as they do to enforce those laws that apply to U.S. drivers. Nothing less than the safety of our highways and the security of our homeland depends on it.

The NAFTA Trucking Safety Act will ensure all truck drivers on our highways are who they say they are and are equally qualified to be there by requiring the U.S. Department of Transportation to demonstrate that comprehensive databases exist on Mexican drivers equivalent in quality and reliability as U.S. driver databases, and by requiring that state and federal enforcement personnel have equal access to those databases.

Additionally, the NAFTA Trucking Safety Act will require a plan for the regular enforcement of immigration and customs laws inside our country, not just at our borders. Currently, once a Mexico-domiciled truck passes through our border with a permissible NAFTA shipment, there is no enforcement plan in place to monitor what that truck and driver do inside the United States. A key homeland security goal is to prevent persons from coming into the country for a permissible purpose and then staying in the country, undetected, for a different purpose. Your legislation will bring much needed attention to and enforcement of these laws.

It is simply inconceivable that the U.S. Department of Transportation would be engaged in what appears to be a headlong rush to open our southern border to trucks from Mexico when our nation's inability to enforce our laws on foreign trucks is so blatantly obvious and would certainly have an immediate negative impact on highway safety and homeland security.

Thank you for your leadership on this crucial matter.

Sincerely,

James Johnston  
President