



Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters

Strength in Numbers 95,000

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LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT

Tell Senate Leadership and the Appropriations Committee to Oppose Attempts to Undermine State Meal and Rest Breaks

The Senate Committee on Appropriations is considering legislation that would fund the government for the remainder of this year. The Teamsters are concerned that a rider may be added to the legislation which would have the effect of denying truck drivers meal and rest breaks and payment for non-driving work activities. These types of provisions deny commercial drivers meal and rest breaks and fair pay that they are entitled to under current state laws.

It is imperative that the Appropriations committee not include these anti-safety, anti-worker provisions. Such a provision would prevent any state from enacting laws that provide truck drivers with meal and rest breaks, or rules that allow drivers to be paid for work when they're not behind the wheel. That could mean no guarantee of pay for time spent training, performing a pre- and post-trip safety inspection, or waiting to drop off a load. The preemption of meal and rest break laws would cause truck drivers to have almost no legal protections in taking a lunch or rest break outside of the minimum federal standards. This could lead to wide-spread abuse by employers, further reducing truck driver pay and safety.

Truck driver fatigue is a major cause of truck crashes that kill 4,000 people annually. Yet, adoption of this

provision will only further encourage drivers to push themselves past their limits. This provision will not benefit public safety, but will bolster the bottom line of certain segments of the trucking industry. Under current regulations, employers can push truck drivers to work more than 80 hours per week. These additional attacks on truck safety are creating the perfect storm for more crashes, more serious injuries, and more fatalities on our highways.

While the meal and rest break issue has been focused on California, 19 other states have versions of a meal and/or rest break which could be undermined by this kind of legislation. These include CO, CT, DE, IL, KY, ME, MA, MN, NE, NV, NH, NY, ND, OR, RI, TN, VT, WA, and WV. Adoption of this type of provision will preempt states that have a right to set working conditions for their own residents. It will also overturn numerous judicial decisions and legislate on an issue actively being considered by the courts.

We need you to call upon Senate leadership and Senators assigned to the Committee on Appropriations and urge them to oppose any attempt to undermine state meal and rest break laws.

Reprinted from the IBT –Field Action March 28, 2017

You can link to the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee at: <https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/about/members> for members names and contact information.

