

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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WILLIAM J. JOHNSON
Executive Director

March 14, 2011

The Honorable John Mica
Chairman
Transportation and Infrastructure
Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nick Rahall
Ranking Member
Transportation and Infrastructure
Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Mica and Ranking Member Rahall:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), representing 241,000 rank-and-file police officers from across the United States, I am writing to ask you to oppose The Safe and Efficient Transportation Act of 2011 (H.R. 763). Heavy trucks are dangerous, cause tremendous amounts of damage to our highway infrastructure and leave taxpayers with the burden of fixing the roads.

Numerous studies, including the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Comprehensive Truck Size and Weight Study, found that heavier trucks are more dangerous. Adding extra weight makes them more difficult to control, more likely to roll over, and much harder to steer, making them a greater risk to other drivers on the road.

Police officers are the first responders to truck accidents and know firsthand the amount of damage a tractor-trailer can do to an automobile and its occupants, especially at high speeds on interstate highways. Allowing trucks to become longer and heavier will only serve to endanger those who share the roads with them.

Law enforcement can attest that increasing the size or weight of trucks could result in more issues for public safety. We strongly oppose efforts to increase truck weight or length on our highways. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, or NAPO's Director of Government Affairs, Rachel Hedge, at (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

William J. Johnson
Executive Director

CC: United States House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee