



Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association

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September 27, 2019

The Honorable Raymond Martinez
Administrator
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Docket # FMCSA-2018-0348, “Hours of Service of Drivers; Definition of Agricultural Commodity”

Dear Administrator Martinez:

The Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association (OOIDA) is the largest trade association representing the views of small-business truckers and professional truck drivers. OOIDA has more than 160,000 members located in all fifty states that collectively own and operate more than 240,000 individual heavy-duty trucks. OOIDA’s mission is to promote and protect the interests of its members on any issues that might impact their economic well-being, working conditions, and the safe operation of commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) on our nation’s highways.

OOIDA supports updating and harmonizing the definition of “agricultural commodity” with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The definition should include any and all species and/or products that fall under the current Electronic Logging Device exemption as approved by Congress.

“None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Transportation by this Act or any other Act may be obligated or expended to implement, administer, or enforce the requirements of section 31137 of title 49, United States Code, or any regulation issued by the Secretary pursuant to such section, with respect to the use of electronic logging devices by operators of commercial motor vehicles, as defined in section 31132(1) of such title, transporting livestock as defined in section 602 of the Emergency Livestock Feed Assistance Act of 1988 (7 U.S.C. 1471) or insects.”

The Agency can provide clarity to CMV drivers who transport such commodities, the motor carriers who employ them, growers or distributors of those commodities, and enforcement personnel by updating and harmonizing this definition.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Spencer".

Todd Spencer
President & CEO
Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association, Inc.