



March 16, 2018

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

Dear Administrator Martinez:

Congratulations on your selection and confirmation to serve as the new Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administrator!

The Agricultural Retailers Association (ARA), which represents the nation's agricultural retailers and distributors, primarily rely on trucks to deliver essential farm supplies to their farm and ranch customers. ARA members have a strong commitment to transportation safety and support FMCSA's mission to reduce crashes, injuries, and fatalities involving large trucks. We agree with President Trump's stated goals of "adding zero new regulatory costs onto the American economy" and his challenge to remove every excessive regulation currently on the books. One of those excessive regulations for transporters of farm supplies is the new Electronic Logging Device (ELD) mandate.

ARA respectfully requests that FMCSA delay full enforcement of the ELD requirements on our industry, which is scheduled to begin on April 1, 2018, until ARA's pending exemption petition is fully adjudicated and additional guidance can be issued related to its impact on the Hours of Service (HOS) regulations.

ARA is very concerned that farm supply transporters subject to the ELD requirements may receive an out-of-service (OOS) violation, which could impact their ability to move essential products for their farm and ranch customers in a timely manner. We were extremely disappointed to learn that farm supply transporters were not included in the most recent 90-day temporary ELD waiver granted for livestock and agricultural commodities. ARA members work is just as unique and seasonal as other segments of the agricultural industry.

The burden and expense on agricultural retailers associated with purchasing and maintaining ELDs far outweighs any purported benefits. It is also contrary to President Trump's regulatory reform executive orders to impose the ELD mandate on our industry during the "off-season" when there is substantially less transportation of farm supplies. ARA members have clearly shown they can achieve a similar or greater level of safety in the event the ELD exemption petition is granted.

Thank you for your timely consideration of this important request. We look forward to working with you and your agency on this and other important transportation regulations impacting ARA members and the agricultural industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard D. Gupton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "R".

Richard D. Gupton
Senior Vice President, Public Policy & Counsel