

Attachment D: Stakeholder Letters of Support



U.S. Department
of Transportation

Federal Motor Carrier
Safety Administration

400 - Seventh St., SW
Washington, DC 20590

Refer to: MC-RRR

Ms. Stephanie Pratt
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
Division of Safety Research
1095 Willowdale Road,
Mailstop H-1808,
Morgantown, WV 26505

Dear Ms. Pratt:

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding your proposed study of commercial motor vehicle (CMV) driver health. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has been concerned about driver health for quite some time. Because of this concern, FMCSA began a research project in May 1997 to design, develop, and evaluate a model truck and bus wellness program. This research was completed in June 2000, and resulted in the creation of the "Gettin' in Gear" program to create heightened awareness, and interest in driver health and wellness. Materials from this program were distributed within the truck and bus industry and provided basic health, nutrition, and fitness information to CMV drivers. The "Gettin' in Gear" program was found to have a positive health impact on drivers who participated in the program, both initially and when the Agency followed-up with participants (Roberts, S., & York, J. 2000).

We recognize the important role that driver health and wellness plays in driver safety, performance, job satisfaction, and industry productivity. Therefore, we would welcome and support this study effort to better define and quantify the health concerns of CMV drivers. We also thank you for coordinating your research plans with us and stand ready to assist you with your efforts. I would like to remain your point of contact from our Research Division; I may be reached on (202) 385-2364 or e-mail martin.walker@fmcsa.dot.gov. Dr. Maggi Gunnels, Chief of FMCSA's Physical Qualifications Division, would also be an additional resource that NIOSH may be able to draw upon.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martin R. Walker".

Martin R. Walker, Ph.D.
Acting Director
Office of Research and Analysis

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

JAMES P. HOFFA
General President

25 Louisiana Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001



C. THOMAS KEEGEL
General Secretary-Treasurer

202.624.6800
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February 21, 2006

Dr. Karl Sieber
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
M.S. R-18
4676 Columbia Parkway
Cincinnati, Ohio 45226

Dear Dr. Sieber:

The International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT) strongly supports the proposal to develop a national prevalence survey of truck drivers pursuant to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA). As the designated bargaining representative for 1.4 million workers in a myriad of industries in North America, including hundreds of thousands of commercial drivers here in the United States, we feel that the research that you are proposing would be invaluable to this International Union as we work to provide safer, healthier work environments for our members.

This International Union is keenly aware of the occupational safety and health issues that our driver members face on a daily basis. Commercial drivers experience work-related fatalities and injuries at rates that rank among the highest for workers in the United States. The proposed study that we discussed would provide stakeholders, such as this International Union, with important information that documents working conditions, occupational injuries, and the health status and health practices of drivers.

We welcome the opportunity to work with you to ensure that the research that you are proposing will be successful. Should your study be funded, we will encourage our members and the motor carriers who employ these members to actively participate in this vitally important study.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "LaMont Byrd".

LaMont Byrd, Director
Safety and Health Department

LB/knb



Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association Inc.

James J. Johnston
President

February 22, 2006

Karl Sieber
4767 Columbia Parkway (R17)
Cincinnati, OH, 45226.

Dear Mr. Sieber:

The purpose of this letter is to confirm the support of the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association (OOIDA) for your proposed survey of commercial truck drivers to determine their: working conditions; wellness and health behaviors; and extent of occupational injuries. Commercial driving has long been recognized as one of the most dangerous occupations in the nation, however, definitive data has been lacking to guide the development of meaningful countermeasures. We see this survey as a definite step in the right direction.

The OOIDA is the international trade association representing the interests of independent owner-operators and professional drivers on all issues that affect truckers. The more than 134,000 members of OOIDA are men and women in all 50 states and Canada who collectively own and/or operate more than 201,000 individual heavy-duty trucks and small truck fleets. Since 1973, the Association has actively advocated the views of professional truckers through its interaction with state, provincial and federal government agencies, legislatures, the courts, other associations, and private businesses to advance an equitable environment for commercial drivers. OOIDA is active in all aspects of highway safety and transportation policy, and represents the positions of professional truckers on numerous committees and in various forums on the local, state, provincial, national and international levels.


OOIDA is actively involved in the legislative process both on the federal and state level. The Association participates in virtually every significant rulemaking affecting professional truckers, testifies at all major hearings on trucking issues, and participates in industry-wide organizations and conferences.

We continue to push for creation of more rest areas through any and all means available. We are fighting efforts to divert highway tax money to non-highway related purposes. We are encouraging lawmakers to pursue a remedy to all of the lost time of drivers in the loading and unloading environment, and how this situation contributes to non-compliance with the rules, and

highway safety. OOIDA is also pushing for comprehensive mandatory training for entry-level drivers—the kind of training that will teach new drivers to be safe and to comply with the rules—the kind of training that will ultimately elevate the caliber of people seeking to enter this industry as drivers. OOIDA has made great strides during the past 30 years, but we believe the biggest accomplishments are those yet to come.

We are proud of our record of effective representation for the professional trucker and are happy to support your upcoming study that focuses on the health and working conditions of truckers.

Sincerely,



Jim Johnston
President



February 27, 2006

Stephanie Pratt
Research Health Scientist
Division of Safety Research
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

RE: ATRI Support of NIOSH Survey of Truck Drivers on Fatigue and Health Issues

Dear Stephanie:

The American Transportation Research Institute (ATRI) is pleased to support your team's proposal to study fatigue and health issues among commercial truck drivers. As you know, ATRI, the trucking industry's not-for-profit research organization, is committed to supporting research that improves the safety and efficiency of the nation's trucking industry. Certainly, research that preserves our most valuable asset, the men and women who drive trucks for a living, is at the top of that list.

ATRI has enjoyed a long and successful history of work related to the health and wellness of commercial drivers. Our research portfolio includes FMCSA-sponsored research on sleep apnea, fatigue management and commercial driver health and wellness. I have personally served as Principal Investigator on a number of these initiatives and I look forward to partnering with your team to develop the best approach for identifying the health and wellness challenges facing commercial drivers.

As you know, the participation of ATRI in your research team ensures unparalleled access to the trucking industry, along with the benefit of our in-depth understanding of the operational issues and realities facing motor carriers and their drivers.

Please let me know what additional information I can provide as we move through the proposal process. Again, I look forward to partnering with your research team to support this critical research.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca M. Brewster".

Rebecca M. Brewster
President and Chief Operating Officer

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NSW IRMRC

Dr Karl Sieber

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, M.S. R-I 8

4676 Columba parkway

Cincinnati, Ohio 45226

USA

THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEW SOUTH WALES

Dear Dr Sieber:

Proposed national survey of occupational safety and health of truck drivers

Thank you for sending me details of your proposed study of occupational safety and health surveillance needs of truck drivers.

I am very happy to support this project. This is an important study as it will provide much needed information on the safety and health issues of a large and essential industrial sector. Furthermore, the study will be an essential benchmark for evaluating **the** effects on safety and health of changes in the industry. Similar studies that we have undertaken in Australia have been invaluable in assisting our understanding of the safety and health issues for truck drivers and for helping to direct more informed policies and intervention strategies in this area.

Regards

t,

Ann Williamson, PhD

Associate Professor

NHMRC Senior Research Fellow

4 March 2006

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