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Comment from Anthony Peetz

Posted by the **Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration** on Dec 2, 2025

Docket / Document (FMCSA-2025-0787-0001) / Comment

Comment ID

FMCSA-2025-0787-0004

Tracking Number

mio-201u-da8i

Comment Details

Submitter Info

Document Subtype ?

Comment(s)

Received Date ?

Dec 1, 2025

Comment

I am a fourth generation long haul flatbed trucker, this is my 29th year in the trucking industry, I have been an owner operator for 26 years now.

It is my belief that truckstops and private parking firms have seized upon the ELD Mandate as a money grab. Since the inception of the ELD Mandate, paid parking has exploded, forcing drivers to pay for the privilege of adhering to the Hours of Service regulations. Truckstop chains such as TA/Petro have changed numerous locations to 100% paid parking, using law enforcement, predatory towing and booting to hold drivers who are tired and following the HOS regulations, as financial hostages.

Truckers have been operating on razor thin margins since 2018 and having to pay what amounts to extortion fees to get a 10 hour rest period is deplorable at minimum and a massive safety risk at its greatest. Paid parking started at modest rates several years ago, with five to eight dollars being the average. In 2025, truckers are witnessing and paying out \$15-\$25 dollars per night and as high as \$50 dollars per night if using Truck Parking Club, a private parking company. Fuel costs refuse to drop, tolls continue to go skyward, and yet our wages have remained stagnant since 1984 and now greedy actors are preying on truckers who are federally mandated to rest by charging for that rest break.

These greedy actors cannot have it both ways, the American trucker cannot be expected to pay \$105-\$175 per 7 days for parking AND still spend money in these businesses, it is a losing proposition no different than trying to push a boulder to the top of the mountain only to have it roll back down.

I implore FMCSA and the Trump administration to study, plan and carry out truck ONLY rest areas such as the state of Indiana utilizes on the Indiana Turnpike. The aforementioned areas accommodate several hundred trucks at each parking area. I also implore the FMCSA and current administration to investigate the predatory paid parking schemes of truckstops and private parking firms, as there is no oversight in regards to the fees, intimidation and threats of law enforcement wielded by these parties against truckers.

I will finish my comment by stressing again... NO TRUCKER SHOULD HAVE TO PAY FOR A SAFE NIGHTS SLEEP AND FOLLOWING THE LAW. Thank you

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