



**Please Co-Sponsor H.R. 1799:** Help the Dairy Industry Operate More Efficiently In These Difficult Times by Reforming Vehicle Weight Limits.

June 19, 2009

Dear Representative,

The National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) urges you to responsibly reform federal weight limits on interstate highways by supporting H.R. 1799, the Safe and Efficient Transportation Act of 2009. NMPF develops and carries out policies that advance the well-being of U.S. dairy producers and the cooperatives they collectively own. The members of NMPF's 31 cooperatives produce the majority of the U.S. milk supply, making NMPF the voice of nearly 50,000 dairy producers on Capitol Hill and with government agencies. Dairy producers and the dairy cooperatives they own and operate are currently facing very difficult challenges. This bill is one way Congress can help permit the industry to increase its efficiency, thereby keeping down one measure of cost in transporting milk and dairy products.

**H.R. 1799, the Safe and Efficient Transportation Act of 2009, would responsibly raise truck weight limits to allow American businesses to meet demand with fewer trucks—removing unnecessary trucks from the highway, reducing our carbon footprint and improving shipping productivity. The legislation would allow individual states to increase their interstate vehicle weight limits to 97,000 pounds—but only for vehicles equipped with a sixth axle.**

H.R. 1799 allows for heavier—not bigger—trucks that meet current safety standards. The required sixth axle would maintain braking capacity and the current distribution of weight per tire without changing the size of the truck. While the additional axle maintains vehicle safety performance and minimizes pavement wear, a user fee for six-axle units would fund vital bridge repair.

Academic studies & empirical evidence illustrate the safety, environmental & economic benefits of H.R. 1799.

- **Safer Roads:** Since the United Kingdom raised its gross vehicle weight limit to 97,000 pounds for six-axle vehicles in 2001, fatal truck-related accident rates have declined by 35 percent. More freight has been shipped, while the number of VMTs to deliver a ton of freight has declined.
- **Cleaner Environment:** Vehicle weight limit reform will benefit the environment by reducing the number of trucks needed to ship America's freight—saving fuel and reducing green house emissions.
- **Stronger Economy:** The Safe and Efficient Transportation Act of 2009 (H.R. 1799) will allow American producers to consolidate goods and reduce the number of weekly shipments needed to move a specific amount of freight. The legislation will also help the U.S. improve its competitive edge, as American gross vehicle weight limits are among the lowest of industrialized nations.

We ask you to support H.R. 1799 and allow America's dairy industry to more efficiently transport the nutritious dairy products while promoting highway safety and helping to protect the environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jerry Kozak". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jerry Kozak  
President and CEO