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AGING

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, Southeast  
Washington, District of Columbia 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

Serious concerns have been raised about the ongoing Comprehensive Truck Size and Weight Study that Congress directed as part of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act. I respectfully request that you come to my office on Capitol Hill for a meeting with key transportation safety advocates to address these concerns.

I am deeply troubled by reports that both the process and the substance of the study have been riddled with serious and significant flaws, including: the hiring and selection of the lead contractor; the appointment and composition of the peer review panel; and the collection, consideration and use of inadequate and possibly biased data. I have also heard concerns that the study assumes a static view of current freight tonnage, ignoring the Federal Highway Administration's own prediction of significant increases in future years. The study also appears to be relying on the false assumption that bigger and heavier trucks will result in fewer trucks on our roads and highways, and it presupposes incorrectly that all trucks, including any larger or heavier trucks, will comply with truck size and weight limits. Additionally, I have learned the study is using limited data from a few select, rural states and then extrapolating the findings to the entire country.

It is also concerning that Turnpike Doubles and Rocky Mountain Doubles, some of the heaviest and longest trucks in operation, are not among the truck configurations that the study will specifically analyze. I question how "comprehensive" this truck study can be – and whether it can provide the reliable information that Congress needs to make long-lasting policy decisions – with this significant omission.

The results of this study will have enduring impacts on safety, and I remain concerned by reports that the study appears to be biased. In order to ensure a credible final study, I request that you meet with me and a few prominent safety organizations to address these concerns.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senate