



Ad Hoc Coalition for Trucking Safety

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The Honorable Thomas Madison
Commissioner
NYS Department of Transportation
50 Wolf Road, 6th Floor
Albany, NY 12232

January 11, 2006

Dear Commissioner Madison:

We are writing to you about a growing problem for many truck operators, those who consider themselves in the trucking industry and many others such as lawn care companies, landscapers, farmers and turf growers.

Professionals who utilize a commercial vehicle to make a living are extremely frustrated with local law enforcement's disregard for safety inspection decals issued by the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) and the lack of CVSA certified inspectors at the local level.

We have no concern or objection with local, county or state law enforcement officers who fairly and justly enforce the vehicle and traffic law. We do however have a significant concern with untrained and uncertified officers attempting to perform a job they are not qualified for. We strenuously object to municipalities which look upon commercial vehicle inspections and enforcement as a means to generate revenue and to drive trucks from their jurisdiction, a situation only made worse when the officers have little or no specialized commercial vehicle inspection training.

CVSA provides training and enforcement guidelines and standards which are accepted by law enforcement, transportation and commercial vehicle entities across state lines and even across our national borders.

One of the most significant benefits to the industry of the CVSA guidelines is the inspection sticker that a truck receives after being inspected by a CVSA certified inspector. While not mandated, the CVSA guidelines provide that a truck displaying a valid CVSA inspection sticker may be passed through any other inspection unless there is an obvious defect or some other reason to perform an inspection. This practice encourages compliance on the part of the trucker and means that he/she is not needlessly delayed for an inspection day in and day out. Unfortunately in parts of our state, untrained and uncertified officers are conducting truck inspections and are not abiding by the CVSA guidelines. This means that many trucks are being stopped and inspected needlessly.

For the last several years there have been discussions of legislatively addressing this issue but these have not yet met with success. While this issue continues to be debated, we believe that the Department of Transportation can assist in this matter. Through the regulatory process the DOT has the authority to impose CVSA training requirements on state and local law enforcement officials. This would not be a mandate as there is no requirement for local law enforcers to conduct inspections, but if a local law enforcement agency chooses to conduct inspections their officers would be required to be properly trained

We would be happy to meet with you and members of your staff to discuss this proposal. We look forward to your consideration and response.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



William G. Joyce Jr., President
NYS Motor Truck Association



John Lincoln, President
NY Farm Bureau



Christopher J. Revere
NY Alliance for Environmental Concerns

Aisha Tator
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