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## **AFFI, Coalition Partners Fight Short-Haul Trucking Rule Change**

**McLean, VA** – The [American Frozen Food Institute](#) (AFFI) this week partnered with a coalition of 11 other food, retail and transportation groups to oppose a Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) proposal that would impose complex and unnecessary restrictions on hours of service permitted for commercial truck drivers.

AFFI and its coalition partners wrote the leadership of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure this week to insist that FMCSA's proposal disproportionately impacts the short-haul trucking industry, which functions differently than other trucking sectors. The coalition's letter warned that FMCSA's proposal would result in decreased productivity for truckers and their customers, increased congestion on roads during peak driving hours, erratic delivery schedules and increased tailpipe emissions.

Upon completing 60 hours of service in less than seven days, the proposed rule would require drivers to take two consecutive midnight-6 a.m. breaks, conceivably taking some drivers off the road for up to 53 hours. The current regulation requires a rest period of 34 consecutive hours.

The coalition letter also argued that FMCSA's proposal would not promote driver safety in the short haul-industry, given that short-haul trucking by its very nature centers on drivers taking loads on short distances that require narrower driving windows, thus negating driver fatigue as a safety issue.

A significant amount of short-haul trucking activity takes place during the night and early morning hours to avoid competition with commuters on urban roadways, the coalition stressed. As such, forcing short-haul trucks off the road during nighttime driving hours will increase daytime traffic congestion and potentially reduce the predictability of delivery schedules, hurting businesses and consumers.

"The short-haul trucking industry is a vital component for ensuring the safe, efficient and cost-effective shipment of goods and products," said AFFI President and CEO Kraig R. Naasz. "AFFI and its coalition partners are committed to exploring efforts to improve driver safety, but believe the FMCSA proposal as currently drafted is a step in the wrong direction."

A copy of the coalition's letter is available [here](#).

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*The American Frozen Food Institute is the national trade association that promotes the interests of all segments of the frozen food industry. AFFI works to foster industry development and growth, and advocates before legislative and regulatory entities on the industry's behalf. For more information, please visit [www.affi.com](http://www.affi.com).*