June 5, 2015

The Honorable Michael Doyle Jr.
239 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0001

Dear Representative Doyle:

On behalf of the 25th and 41st State Senatorial Districts, we request that no federal action be taken now to modify or increase truck size and weight limits. To do so before release, review and thorough discussion of the pending US Department of Transportation’s Truck Size and Weight Study, as mandated by the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act, is both unnecessary and short circuits a complete understanding of the impacts to the roadway and road bridges across the Commonwealth.

According to 2014 Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) reports, Pennsylvania has a total of 9,420 of its roadway bridge structures that are considered either structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. This is over 41 percent of the total number of Pennsylvania bridges in the FHWA report. In 2013 Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), along with local bridge owning authorities, added new weight restrictions or lowering existing weight restrictions on approximately 1,000 bridges statewide.

We appreciate that certain sectors of the trucking industry are seeking to boost their efficiencies, and profits, through a federal mandate for larger trucks. However, Congress should resist simply agreeing to such requests until the significant public safety and environmental impacts associated with such changes are fully understood and discussed. Also, a clear understanding of the costs of increase truck size and weight limits will impose on PennDOT and local government authorities should also be developed before implementing such changes.

For all these reasons, we ask that no truck size or weight legislation be included in the 2014 appropriations bill now under consideration in Congress.

Sincerely,

Joe Scarnati
State Senator – 25th District

Don White
State Senator – 41st District
Senators
The Honorable Robert Casey Jr.
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Toomey
248 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Representatives
The Honorable Robert Brady
102 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chaka Fattah
2301 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Kelly
1519 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Scott Perry
1207 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Glenn Thompson
124 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
The Honorable Ryan Costello
427 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patrick Meehan
434 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael Fitzpatrick
2400 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bill Shuster
2268 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Marino
410 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lou Barletta
115 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Keith Rothfus
1205 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
The Honorable Brendan Boyle
118 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael Doyle Jr.
239 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Dent
2211 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joseph Pitts
420 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Matthew Cartwright
1419 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tim Murphy
2332 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515