

ROGER F. WICKER

MISSISSIPPI

ARMED SERVICES

BUDGET

COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND TRANSPORTATION  
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

# United States Senate

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June 18, 2015

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Transportation,  
Housing, Urban Development, and Related  
Agencies  
SD-186  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Transportation,  
Housing, Urban Development, and Related  
Agencies  
SD-186  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Collins and Ranking Member Reed:

We are writing to urge you and your colleagues on the Senate Appropriations Committee to oppose possible language that may come up during the Senate's consideration of the FY 2016 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) bill. This language would force states to accept double 33-foot-long trailers on all U.S. highways. We believe that provisions of this nature should first be fully considered in the House and Senate by committees with jurisdiction over this important policy area.

The U.S Department of Transportation (USDOT) just this month publicly released its Technical Reports in response to a study mandated in the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act (MAP-21). USDOT found significant data limitations in its analyses, concluding that "no changes" in the relevant laws and regulations should be considered until these data limitations are overcome.

Moreover, we believe the proposed measure on double 33-foot-long trailers could have a negative impact on highway safety, accelerate wear and tear on the nation's highway system, ignore the laws of many states that prohibit these large trailers, and significantly disrupt the freight industry – possibly even putting some trucking companies out of business. At a minimum, there has not been sufficient dialogue around this measure to understand its full impact.

Please oppose any legislation with provisions related to nationwide changes in truck size under the jurisdiction of the Senate Commerce Committee and truck weights under the jurisdiction of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

We appreciate your work on the transportation appropriations bill and your efforts to ensure we have a safe transportation network.

  
ROGER F. WICKER  
United States Senator

Sincerely,

  
RICHARD BLUMENTHAL  
United States Senator