

JOE SESTAK
7TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

**CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515**

(202) 225-2011

February 16, 2010

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The Honorable Ray Lahood
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590-0001

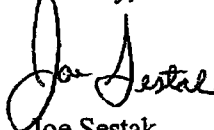
Dear Secretary Lahood,

I am writing for an update on a matter of utmost importance. As a result of a 2007 Department of Transportation review of Pennsylvania's regulations for heavy vehicles, an appropriate exemption for farmers has been put in jeopardy. With it, the livelihood of many of the Commonwealth's small and mid-sized farms is at risk. Unless action is taken soon, I fear the unacceptable result of further farm foreclosures will be the result.

Keeping our roads and work places safe must be our primary concern. There is no indication that the long-standing Pennsylvania regulations that recognize the realities of modern farm life place anyone on the roads or working on farms at risk. These new regulations would undoubtedly put an incredible burden on already weakened farms and farming families and unnecessarily negatively impact a traditional core of our Commonwealth.

Due to the time sensitivity of this issue, I would appreciate someone contacting my office to give me an update as soon as possible to be followed when time permits with a formal written response. Jason Marmon of my staff can be reached 202-225-2011 or Jason.marmon@mail.house.gov.

Warmly,



Joe Sestak
Member of Congress

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Cc: The Honorable Allen Biehler, Secretary of Transportation for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Chairman Arthur Coccodrilli, Pennsylvania Independent Regulatory Review Commission ✓

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Joe Sestak

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DATE: 16 February 2010

Pages: 1 + cover sheet

To: Chairman Arthur Coccodrilli

Fax: 202-366-3675

From: Congressman Joe Sestak

: DC : PA

Regarding Pennsylvania farm vehicle regulations

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