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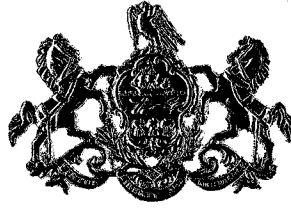
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2745



**Senate of Pennsylvania**

February 23, 2010

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Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairman  
Independent Regulatory Review Commission  
333 Market Street, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Chairman Coccodrilli:

I am writing to express my opposition to the following proposed regulation:

- No. 2745 – Department of Transportation #18-414 Intrastate Motor Carrier Safety Requirements.

I believe that the proposed changes that the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation believes to be federally mandated will place unworkable requirements on farmers in “legally” managing the operation and use of agricultural vehicles around the farm, with essentially no improvement to vehicle or driver safety. According to the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, who has confirmed their interpretation of the new regulations with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, virtually every situation in which a trailer or implement is being towed by a farm tractor or truck will cause the vehicle and driver to be regulated like an interstate truck driver.

These proposed changes have the potential to greatly affect the 45,000 farm families in the Commonwealth. For example:

- No one under 18 years of age, including the farmer’s children, will be permitted to legally operate a farm tractor or truck if it is pulling another implement when the combined weight is over 17,000 pounds.
- Any driver of a farm tractor or truck, if operating on a public road and towing another implement, will need to have medical certification.
- For vehicles meeting the 17,000 pound threshold, driver’s logs and employee recordkeeping will be required to document hours of operation, breaks, and more.
- Pre- and post-trip inspections must be conducted, maintenance documented and reports maintained and filed.

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
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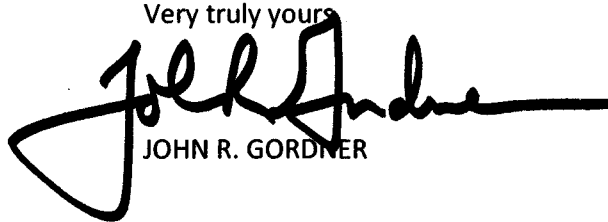
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Chairman Coccodrilli  
February 23, 2010

While I recognize that farm vehicle safety is of the utmost importance, especially when these vehicles operate on public roads, I believe the current proposal is excessive and in many cases only increases paperwork, but does not necessarily increase safety.

Further, I understand there may be a potential determination made by the Federal Motor Carrier Administration to clarify that 'tractors' do not meet the definition of "commercial vehicle" under these regulations, therefore extending the existing exemptions; I would be very supportive of such a determination and would encourage official documentation of any such clarification in the regulation.

Given the above mentioned consequences of the proposed regulations to the state's agricultural industry, I respectfully request a negative vote.

Very truly yours

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John R. Gordner". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a long horizontal line extending to the right.

JOHN R. GORDNER

JRG/pd

cc: George D. Bedwick, Vice Chairman  
Silvan B. Lutkewitte, III, Commissioner  
John Mizner, Commissioner  
S. David Fineman, Commissioner  
Kim Kauffman, Executive Director