

THE MODERNIZING AGRICULTURAL TRANSPORTATION ACT
Introduced by Senators John Hoeven (R-N.D.) and Michael Bennet (D-Colo.)

“We greatly appreciate Senator Hoeven and Senator Bennet’s continued support for resolving the hours of service regulations and the challenges they can pose to the health and well-being of our livestock. This is an especially critical issue to North Dakota’s beef industry due to our industry configuration and our geography. Being a primarily cow-calf state, many of our cattle flow considerable distances for further feeding or processing. That leaves haulers with few options – options that can compromise animals’ well-being. We are committed to finding a workable solution that takes into account the safety of haulers, others on the road and the livestock in tow.” – **Julie Ellingson, Executive Director, North Dakota Stockmen’s Association.**

“NPPC strongly supports the Hoeven-Bennet bill, which provides stakeholder collaboration for developing common-sense Hours of Service regulations to address the safety of our roadways while protecting the welfare of our livestock. The bill supports an essential element of the nation’s food production system and the continuity of the U.S pork supply chain.” – **NPPC President Jen Sorenson.**

“Livestock haulers continue to face an urgent need for greater flexibility under hours-of-service (HOS) regulations. NCBA and the producers we represent are encouraged by the continued bipartisan support for legislation like the *Modernizing Agricultural Transportation Act*. We look forward to continuing our discussion with the Department of Transportation (DOT) and advocating for commonsense measures that fit the unique needs of our industry. When given flexibility, haulers have proven that they can maintain safety on the roads and protect animal welfare in transit. We thank Senators Hoeven and Bennet for continuing the push on this critical issue.” — **National Cattlemen’s Beef Association President Jerry Bohn.**

“Striking the balance between highway safety, the well-being of America’s commercial honeybees, and the nearly \$20 billion in crops that rely on honeybee transport is essential. The Hoeven-Bennet bill provides a clear pathway to that end.” – **Chris Hiatt, Vice President of the American Honey Producers Association and a resident of Bowman, North Dakota.**

“USCA appreciates the leadership of Senators John Hoeven and Michael Bennet in recognizing the unique challenges associated with getting livestock to their destination as safely and efficiently as possible. As cattlemen and women, the welfare and comfort of these animals is our number one concern and their needs vary greatly from the needs of a commercial driver transporting steel or furniture. We look forward to utilizing this important bill to work alongside all stakeholders to identify workable solutions to the restrictive Hours-of-Service rules for livestock and insect haulers.” – **Steve Hilker, Transportation Committee Chairman, U.S. Cattlemen’s Association.**

“Livestock haulers provide a unique service to the trucking and agricultural industries and need flexibilities that account for the special jobs they do. The Livestock Marketing Association appreciates Senators Hoeven and Bennet for their bipartisan and collaborative approach to solving important problems for our industry in the trucking arena by reintroducing the Modernizing Agricultural Transportation Act.” – **Larry Schnell, Dickinson, ND, - President of the Livestock Marketing Association.**

“American Farm Bureau Federation welcomes the reintroduction of the bipartisan Modernizing Ag Transportation Act. Farmers and ranchers need the ability to transport our animals to market safely and securely. This legislation creates a framework for producers to work directly with the Department of Transportation to address the challenges surrounding Hours of Service and the Electronic Logging Device mandate. We applaud Senator Hoeven and Senator Bennet for their leadership on this issue.” – **Zippy Duvall, President of the American Farm Bureau Federation.**

“The American Sheep Industry Association thanks Senator Hoeven and Senator Bennet for their efforts to support the safe, humane and efficient transportation of livestock. Livestock haulers have long required greater flexibility in the existing hours-of-service regulations. This legislation will ensure a solution is found to allow the continued transportation of livestock without unnecessary stops that inhibit airflow to the sheep being hauled, offloading and reloading that pose dangers to the sheep and those that haul them, and protects the safety of the American public on our roadways.” – **Susan Shultz, President, American Sheep Industry Association.**

“The Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association appreciate and support Senator Hoeven’s and Senator Bennett’s leadership in presenting a solution to the Hours-of-Service regulations and the Electronic Logging Device mandate challenges in the transport of livestock. Their bi-partisan and common sense solution to the transport of livestock in a safe, humane, and efficient manner is a welcome and needed action that the PRCA applauds. This bill provides our livestock haulers with the flexibility to comply with safety regulations and still care for their highly valued livestock in the best way possible. The PRCA looks forward to working with the Department of Transportation to find the best solutions for our livestock haulers and this bill is a needed first step in that process.” – **George Taylor, Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association, Chief Executive Officer.**

“The leadership by Senator Hoeven and Senator Bennet to improve current long haul truck driver hours of services and electronic logging device regulations will reduce the risk to aquatic animal health and welfare, provide the additional time required to load and unload delicate farmed fish, create the time flexibility needed for slower travel on rural highways and byways, and recognize the inability for drivers to arbitrarily stop and hold live fish as water quality deteriorates during transportation. The US aquaculture community greatly appreciates and supports their foresighted efforts and urges the Senate to pass their legislation.” – **Jim Parsons, President, National Aquaculture Association.**