

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

### **Here's what groups are saying...**

“We appreciate this opportunity to be at the table to talk about 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 Vice President of the North Dakota Stockmen’s Association.**

“NPPC strongly supports the Hoeven-Bennet bill as a reasonable solution for developing Hours of Service regulations that protect highway safety while allowing livestock haulers to transport animals in a safe and humane way. A trucker hauling livestock can’t just pull over and go ‘off-duty,’ leaving animals unattended. The incompatibility between the Hours of Service regulations and livestock hauling must be addressed.” – **Jim Heimerl, President of the National Pork Producers Council.**

“The National Cattlemen’s Beef Association and the producers we represent are glad to see another bipartisan effort designed to provide much-needed relief for livestock haulers. The Modernizing Agricultural Transportation Act requires the Secretary of the Department of Transportation to establish a working group to address the implementation of electronic logging devices and the overly-restrictive hours of service rules that livestock haulers face today. We look forward to continuing our work with members of Congress, industry groups and the Department of Transportation as we work to find solutions to our current transportation concerns.” – **Kevin Kester, President of the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association.**

“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.**

“U.S. cattle producers across the country appreciate the leadership of Senators John Hoeven and Michael Bennet in pursuing a solution to the restrictive Hours-of-Rules for livestock haulers. Both Senators recognize the unique challenges associated with getting livestock to their destination as safely and efficiently as possible and through their efforts have acknowledged the extensive safety training that livestock haulers undergo in the U.S. 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.” – **Kenny Graner, President of the U.S. Cattlemen’s Association.**

“The Livestock Marketing Association applauds Senators Hoeven and Bennet’s continued efforts to find bipartisan solutions for America’s livestock haulers. We believe that livestock haulers are some of the safest drivers in the country and we support additional flexibility to allow them to safely and efficiently transport America’s protein supply.” – **Tom Frey, President of the Livestock Marketing Association.**

“American Farm Bureau Federation welcomes the introduction 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 on introducing this legislation.” – **Zippy Duvall, President of the American Farm Bureau Federation.**

“The Modernizing Agricultural Transportation Act is a common-sense move that will help ease the burden of far-reaching Hours-of-Service and Electronic Logging Device regulations. This bipartisan legislation should finally give the agricultural trucking industry some certainty after all these years. We look forward to its swift passage in the Senate, and eventually the House.” – **Dr. Dale McCall, President of the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union.**

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