



5400 Auto Club Way  
Minneapolis, MN 55416-2567  
Tel (952) 927-2600  
Fax (952) 927-2559  
AAA.com

February 23, 2015

Dear Chairman Kelly and members of the Transportation Policy and Finance Committee:

As President and CEO of AAA Minneapolis, and on behalf of our more than 205,000 AAA Minneapolis members in Hennepin County, I am writing to share our concerns regarding HF620, which would increase allowable truck sizes and weights on Minnesota roadways.

AAA members across the country, including Hennepin County (our service territory) consistently rank truck safety as one of their top traffic safety concerns over the years. AAA Minneapolis is not alone in consistently opposing any increases in truck sizes and weights nationally and especially here in the Twin Cities metro. Crash data supports our position.

- Trucks are 40 percent more likely to be involved in a fatal crash than cars.
- Heavier trucks have greater risks of rolling over and create more severe accidents when a collision occurs.
- Higher gross vehicle weight also increases the speed differential between trucks and surrounding traffic, escalating the chance of accidents during lane changes and at intersections.
- In 2013, there were 62 fatal truck crashes in Minnesota and 1,425 people injured in truck-related crashes.

Additional truck weight at higher speeds will potentially lead to increased crash severity. Not only would there likely be more injuries from these collisions, but many of today's large-truck injuries could become fatalities if we allow heavier trucks on our roads.

AAA nationally is a not-for-profit, fully tax-paying organization with more than 53 million members nationwide. Our organization has long been well-respected for its credibility and integrity. AAA Minneapolis was established in 1902 and for more than 112 years, has advocated for good, safe roads through serving our members in Hennepin County.

Because of our long-standing commitment to motorist safety, and in light of the significant safety risks associated with bigger trucks, we are asking you to oppose HF620, which would increase the truck size and weight limits in Minnesota on behalf of the thousands of Twin Cities' residents served by AAA Minneapolis.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions regarding our position on this important issue. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Wendy A. Weigel  
President and CEO