



Office of the Sheriff

ANOKA COUNTY
SHERIFF JAMES STUART

February 2, 2015

The Honorable Kurt Daudt
463 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Speaker Daudt:


I have recently been made aware of legislation that seeks to increase the weights of tractor-trailer trucks on our roadways. Large trucks are already dangerous. Allowing trucks to get bigger and longer will only increase the risk of serious injury and/or death, as well as continue to damage our already damaged infrastructure. As the Sheriff of Anoka County, I join in with other law enforcement officers across the state and express my opposition to any increases in truck size and weight.

This is a complicated issue dealing with much more than the ability to ship more goods in a single container. This issue directly impacts the safety of the motoring public, the safety of first responders and their ability to mitigate a hazardous scene. Heavier vehicles will lead to more rollover accidents because of a higher center of gravity and longer trucks will have more issues with steering control, especially when a driver needs to make an emergency maneuver. We already experience dangerous crashes involving large trucks almost daily. I can only imagine what would happen if these trucks are up to 17,000 pounds heavier. Large trucks have a fatal crash involvement rate 40% higher than the rate for passenger cars.

As you are well aware, we have a great amount of truck traffic in and around Anoka County. We know that these trucks will continue to come into our cities to make deliveries. Therefore, all more the reason that we don't think they should get any heavier or longer than they currently are. Also, our roads and bridges are in terrible shape and these bigger and/or heavier trucks will only continue to do damage to roads and bridges that were not made to handle the weight of these big trucks.

Thank you for your attention to this important safety matter. I respectfully ask you to please oppose any increases in truck size and weight.

Sincerely,



James Stuart
Sheriff