



City of Stevenson

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7121 E Loop Road, PO Box 371
Stevenson, Washington 98648

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murray,

Re: Local Concerns of Federal Truck Weight/Size Increases

As the county seat of Skamania County, our elected officials and professional staff are dedicated to providing the highest quality of life to our residents, which includes both proper maintenance of city infrastructure and a commitment to public safety. We recently learned that reoccurring legislative proposals to introduce bigger trucks to our roads is being pushed again in Congress, even though this have been voted down on a bipartisan basis several times.

Nestled along the Columbia River Gorge, our big issue with commercial semi-trucks is that we get a steady amount of traffic coming through our city because trucks often divert from Interstate 84 across the river and come through our town to avoid the weigh station on the Oregon side. Both State Route 14 and 1st Street have been designated as a truck route because there is so much traffic, even though generally trucks should remain on state highways. Our public works department maintains 1st Street, which means heavier trucks would very likely increase damage to pavement and small infrastructure. Longer trucks would have more difficulty parking, making turns due to extra length and depending on weight, could be more damaging to street pavement.

Finally, safety should be a priority for all of us. According to an in-depth study by the USDOT in 2016, heavier and longer trucks are a bad idea all around when it comes to safety. Higher crash rates, longer stopping distance and more out-of-service violations would lead to even more crashes and injuries, according to the report.

We recognize you have opposed legislation allowing longer trucks previously and want to thank you for your understanding. We hope you will remain opposed if these bills come up for a vote.

Best Wishes,

Scott Anderson, Mayor
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