

JOHN BARRASSO M.D.  
WYOMING

307 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
202-224-6441

COMMITTEES:  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS  
CHAIRMAN

FOREIGN RELATIONS

INDIAN AFFAIRS

# United States Senate

February 5, 2018

The Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Cathy Gautreaux  
Deputy Administrator  
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao and Deputy Administrator Gautreaux:

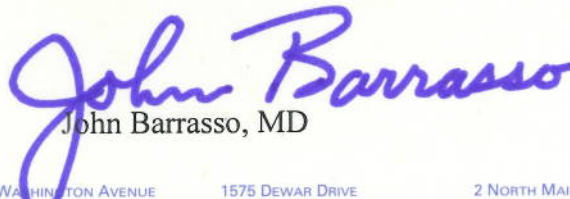
I write today in support of the application to waive the electronic logging device (ELD) mandate for livestock haulers for five years. On December 15, 2015, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) published the final rule requiring commercial carriers and drivers to use an ELD to record their hours of service by December 18, 2017. The waiver is needed to allow the FMCSA ample opportunity to further review the unique nature of livestock transport and implement reasonable rules which will allow for the safe and humane transport of livestock.

This mandate will disproportionately impact many families and small businesses in Wyoming that transport livestock. Failure to provide an exemption to the ELD mandate means families taking their children's 4H and FFA projects to state fair will be required to comply with burdensome requirements. It will harm farmers, ranchers, rodeo contestants, horse show contestants, outfitters and guides, and county and state fair participants.

Transporting livestock is inherently different in rural America, where weather conditions change rapidly and even small towns are far apart. Livestock producers often transport the fruits of their labor thousands of miles to other farms and to the marketplace. Animal welfare, and health and human safety are of the highest priority for livestock haulers. Complying with the ELD mandate will require anyone transporting livestock to make multiple stops in order to comply with the hours of service rules. The impact of making multiple stops on the animals will be significant. It is impractical, inhumane, and could affect animal health and disease containment with longer transit times and multiple loading/unloading requirements.

Given the unique nature of livestock and horse hauling, I strongly believe the FMCSA should grant a five-year waiver from the ELD mandate before the 90-day waiver expires. This will provide the FMCSA and industry with the time to come up with workable adjustments to the hours of service rules. I appreciate your consideration of Wyoming's perspective when determining how best to resolve this issue.

Sincerely,

  
John Barrasso, MD

100 EAST B STREET  
SUITE 2004  
CASPER, WY 82602  
307-261-6413

2120 CAPITOL AVENUE  
SUITE 2013  
CHEYENNE, WY 82001  
307-772-2451

324 EAST WASHINGTON AVENUE  
RIVERTON, WY 82501  
307-856-6642

1575 DEWAR DRIVE  
SUITE 218  
ROCK SPRINGS, WY 82901  
307-362-5012

2 NORTH MAIN STREET  
SUITE 206  
SHERIDAN, WY 82801  
307-672-6456

WYOMING  
TOLL FREE  
1-866-235-9553  
WWW.BARRASSO.SENATE.GOV