

ROAD SAFE AMERICA

Fall 2010 Newsletter

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Encouragement from Lawmakers

Dear Friends of Road Safe America:

By now, the children are back in school and the highways are becoming ever-more crowded thanks to a slowly reviving economy. These are just two important reasons for all of us to be mindful of the hazards on our road ways. But there are also reasons to be encouraged on the highway safety front that we want to share with you.

As we have stated frequently, **Road Safe America aims to require the use of simple safety technology on all commercial vehicles** weighing 13 tons or more on America's roads. Our approach is two-fold. We have petitioned the Department of Transportation to write a regulation mandating that speed governors be set at 65mph or slower and have strongly encouraged requiring electronic logging of drive time. In addition, we have had several meetings with members of both houses of Congress asking for their help in achieving these changes and have made two productive trips to Washington D.C.

On June 9th we were invited along with Executive Director Tom Hodgson to visit with The Honorable Anne Ferro and The Honorable David Strickland, Administrators for the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Admini-



The Honorable Anne Ferro, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administrator, Susan Owings, Co-Founder RSA, Steve Owings, Co-Founder RSA, The Honorable David Strickland, National Highway Traffic Safety Administrator, and Tom Hodgson, Executive Director for RSA meet in Washington D. C. to discuss Road Safe America's suggestions for safer highways.

stration and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration respectively. The Administrators and their staffs listened closely as we laid out our multi-point agenda for improved highway safety. This meeting was critical since it allowed us to address all of our initiatives and speak directly to the men and women who will make decisions affecting heavy trucks.

"We commend you on your efforts to improve highway safety."

Anne Ferro
Administrator, FMCSA
David Strickland
Administrator, NHTSA

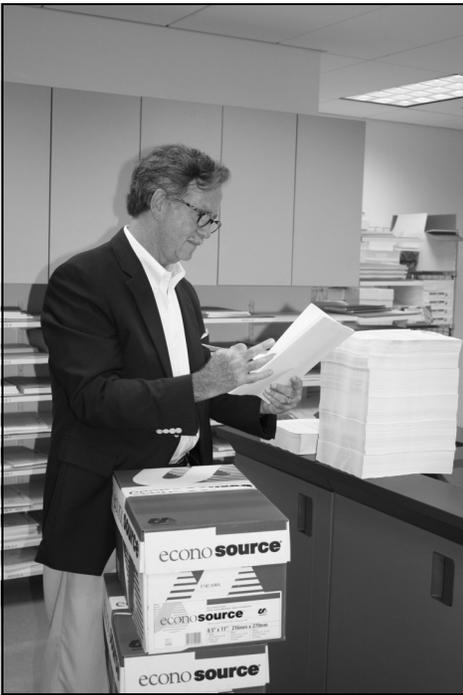
Following the meeting, we mailed nearly 7,000 peti-

tion letters to each of the Administrators to emphasize the popular support for our agenda. **On August 10 we received a formal letter signed by both Administrators stating that our arguments had been heard and a decision would be made 'this year' regarding the speed governor ruling.** While encouraged, we cannot rest; we must continue our efforts to convince the Department of Transportation of the logic of these simple, life saving requirements.

Another very encouraging development came from the legislative branch. Following our testimony to the U.S. Senate Commerce Committee in April, RSA was invited to provide fol

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Road Safe America



Tom Hodgson, Executive Director of Road Safe America, inspects nearly 7,000 petitions before they are sent to Washington, D.C.

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low-up dialogue to the bi-partisan staff of that committee.

On June 23rd, we laid out our six point safety agenda and we were extremely pleased by the reception RSA received. **It is exciting to see that RSA is recognized as both an authority and an objective source of safety improvement advice.**

The tide appears to be turning but, sadly, there are still factions of the trucking industry that equate safety with reduced earning potential. With the help of supporters like you, our work is gaining momentum. Please help us keep up the pressure to make certain the correct decisions are made at this critical time.

Thanks to all,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Susan & Steve'.

Susan and Steve Owings

RSA Board Members Appointed

Road Safe America is honored to welcome Jay Mitchell and John Power to our Board of Directors.

Jay Mitchell is passionate about highway safety. "As a father, I visualize my own three boys behind the wheel of a car driving to school. I want to do everything I can to protect them, just like every parent does. Road Safe America is a targeted way I can do just that" states Jay. Currently, Mitchell is the Executive Vice President and General Counsel at Piedmont Healthcare, Inc. where he is responsible for all legal affairs of the non-profit hospital system in the greater Atlanta area, including its flagship, Piedmont Hospital.

Not only is Jay a well established attorney, but he also gives back to his community. He is on the Parish Council at the Cathedral of Christ the King and also serves on the Advisory Board of Skyland Trial.

John Power is a life-long resident of Savannah, GA. He is married to Patsy, his wife of thirty-two years, and is the father of two daughters. John has had a successful career in the insurance business. "My professional experience includes extensive knowledge about the trucking industry and their insurance issues which I hope will bring a fresh view to the Board of Road Safe America." **John's experience will be valuable as we work to realign the insurance requirements within the trucking industry.**

John spends his free-time playing bridge, making furniture, and playing golf.

Thank You for Your Generous Support!

**Gifts received from May 1—
August 31, 2010**

Gifts of \$1,000 and more

Mr. David B. Plyler
Mr. & Mrs. Aubrey Vaughn, III
The Mary & Charlie Yates
Family Fund*

Gifts of \$250—\$499

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Hough
Ms. Kathleen S. Qualy

Gifts of \$100—\$249

Mr. & Mrs. Richard S. Downey
Mr. & Mrs. John S. Dryman
Mrs. Sally Gantt Finch
Mr. & Mrs. Robert D. Fortson
Mr. & Mrs. Barclay T. Macon, Jr.
Ms. Elizabeth McGovern
Ms. Pamela Watkins

Gifts up to \$99

Ms. Susan Q. Agerton
Mr. Thomas Borda
Mr. William C. Datz
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Pennington

** denotes a Road Safe America
Board Member*

Honor & Memorial Gifts

*In Honor of Cullum Owings'
Birthday*

Ms. Mary Ann Williamson

In Memory of Doug Harris

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Hodgson, Jr.

Road Safe America relies on the generosity of individuals to support our initiatives—thank you.

To give, please go to:

www.roadsafeamerica.org

Road Safe America

Advocacy Update

The 2010 Comprehensive Safety Analysis (CSA) is an initiative introduced by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to improve large truck and bus safety and to ultimately reduce commercial motor vehicle related crashes, injuries, and fatalities. Although it has been delayed twice, this rule will take final form this year.

A summary of CSA's objectives is provided below:

- **To be flexible and adapt to changes in the transportation environment** such as technological advancement.
- **To maximize the use of resources** and to improve Federal and State enforcement staff productivity, as well as the safety performance of members of the motor carrier community.
- **To improve safety performance** by identifying behaviors associated with safety risk; focusing on compliance, enforcement, and remediation efforts on those unsafe behaviors.
- **To leverage data and technology for innovation.**
- **To be fair and unbiased** to ensure consistent treatment of similarly situated members of the motor carrier community.

Rolling out the program by the end of 2010 will establish a new nationwide system for making the roads safer for motor carriers and the public alike. **RSA salutes FMCSA for its proactive approach.**

The Numbers Speak for Themselves

During the past fifteen years, the averages are:

300,000—the number of heavy truck crashes in the U.S. per year.

5,000—the number of Americans who die annually in heavy truck related crashes.

800—the number of truck drivers who die on the job each year, making it one of the deadliest jobs in America.

100,000—the annual number of injuries in crashes involving heavy trucks in the U. S.

3.5—the percentage of all vehicles that are class 7 and 8 trucks (more than 26,000 pounds).

20—the percentage of fatal multi-vehicle accidents that involve class 7 and 8 trucks.

Drive Safer Sunday November 28, 2010

The U. S. Senate unanimously passed Resolution 630 designating November 28, 2010 as Drive Safer Sunday nationwide. The bill was sponsored by Georgia's own Senators Johnny Isakson and Saxby Chambliss as well as Senator Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota.

2010 marks the sixth year of national observance of Drive Safer Sunday. Buckle up, slow down, stay alert, and give big trucks plenty of room because they cannot see as well or maneuver or stop as quickly as cars can. Tell your loved ones to do the same. For more safe driving tips, visit our website at www.roadsafeamerica.org.

New Ambassadors are Named

Road Safe America announces the addition of three Ambassadors who will serve as volunteers on our behalf to educate people in their communities about highway safety. **Each of our Ambassadors is an excellent spokesperson for our cause and integral to our mission.**

Liza Alleman of Lakewood, Ohio is a young mother and the widow of Ronald Alleman, who was tragically killed when a speeding tandem tractor-trailer truck crossed the median in a snowstorm on I-90 and crashed into his vehicle. Liza is dedicated to making a difference on our highways and is trying to mandate a law in Ohio requiring empty tandem trailers, which are not as stable on the road, to pull off the road in bad weather conditions.

Rebecca Franklin, Esq. is an attorney from Statesboro, Georgia and founder of Franklin Law, LLC. Rebecca's practice specializes in cases involving product safety, premises liability, and automotive and trucking accidents.

Laura Spires, Esq. is an associate at Harris Penn & Lowry, LLP from Macon, Georgia. Laura represents individuals and families in product liability and professional malpractice suits and victims of automotive and trucking accidents.

RSA is delighted to welcome these new Ambassadors and we look forward to their contributions as we continue to work toward safer highways.

Be a Road Safe America Ambassador and spread our message of highway safety in your state. Visit our website for more information.



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SAVING LIVES. ONE MILE AT A TIME.



In its role as a highway safety advocate, Road Safe America is sometimes viewed as being anti-trucker as we promote new technology and regulation to make the roads safer. However, that is an image we hope to dispel. National Trucker Appreciation Week is September 19–25 and **Road Safe America wants to join the national chorus and say that we appreciate truckers, too.**

There are 3.4 million professional truck drivers nationwide who log

432 billion miles a year delivering nearly 11 billion tons of freight throughout the country.* Truck drivers are an integral part of our economy—moving the goods and products that impact us everyday.

But, truck driving is a dangerous, often tedious, and generally underappreciated profession. The force of an 80,000lb tractor-trailer truck traveling at 70mph is equal to an average-size car going 361mph. Even though professional truck drivers complete training, this fact helps explain why as many as 800 truckers die each year in crashes on our highways. No other profession in this country had more work-related fatalities among its members last year.

Most Americans have no concept of the physical and mental strain placed on the individual behind the wheel of a big rig.

Road Safe America is trying to improve the working conditions and highway safety for all motorists including professional truck drivers. **We are advocating for an equitable hourly pay scale for professional truck drivers, a reduction in the hours of service rules, the use of electronic logging, and safer places for truckers to rest.** We believe that the adoption of these initiatives will save lives and reduce the number of fatal crashes involving heavy trucks and passenger cars.

Road Safe America recognizes the valuable contributions of the trucking industry and wishes every American trucker safe travels.

*Source: American Trucking Associations website

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