

Summer 2011

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Help from our Friends

Dear Friends:

American democracy is designed around the representative government we are proud to call our own. But sometimes Washington seems far away and the constituents for our elected officials are so great in number that it seems futile to voice our opinions or ask for help. That presumption is inaccurate.

Please know that this is a critical time period for the safety agenda Road Safe America supports as both the Senate and the House of Representatives are moving to pass new legislation for highway and other infrastructure reauthorization. This eventual bill is a perfect vehicle to legislate requirements for the truck safety technologies we advocate.

As many of you know, Road Safe America was founded and operates in Atlanta, Georgia. Our Congressman, John Lewis, and our Senators, Saxby Chambliss and Johnny Isakson, actively support Road Safe America and our safety agenda—and we would like to thank them for all their efforts. The inside politics of Capitol Hill is not always carried out in a public manner but more commonly via a well timed phone call or a personal note from one committee member to another. Con-



Steve Owings, U.S. Congressman John Lewis, and Susan Owings in Washington, DC.

gressman Lewis and Senator Isakson are using their personal influence to promote our cause. Senator Isakson sits on the Commerce Committee as well as the Subcommittee on Transportation — two very important committees that can influence the outcome of the pending highway legislation. Nothing makes a bigger impression on a voting member than a show of support from well respected colleagues.

We are most grateful to these two key Georgia leaders for their help to make our roads safer for all motorists.

Sincerely,

Susan and Steve



Senator Johnny Isakson, member of the Commerce Committee and the Subcommittee on Transportation.

Have a wonderful and safe summer. Keep checking our website and Face Book page for updates on legislation and other news.

Welcome Aboard

Road Safe America welcomes two newly appointed board members.

Mr. Brian D. Rogers (Buck) is a partner at Fried Rogers Goldberg LLC in Atlanta, Georgia specializing in handling trucking and commercial motor vehicle accidents. He represents victims of catastrophic personal injury and wrongful death across the country and especially in the Southeast. Buck has devoted himself to community service as an active board member of the Civil Justice PAC, Inc., the State Council of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and the Shepherd Spinal and Brain Injury Center.

James A. Hatcher (Jim) served as Senior Vice President for Law and Policy for Cox Communications, Inc., the country's third largest cable telecommunications company. Retired from Cox Communications last year, Jim spends his time as a volunteer for The First Tee of East Lake, Atlanta Junior Golf and Georgia State Golf Association as a rules official. In addition, he serves on several boards including the Atlanta Speech School Board of Advisors and Furman University Board of Advisors.

Jim believes wholeheartedly in RSA's goal of making the roads safer for everyone. Having worked with elected officials during his career, Jim says that he is "particularly intrigued with RSA's efforts to get appropriate regulations in place and hopes he can be of assistance in that area."

URGENT: Go to the link on our website to email your legislators asking them to support the mandated use of speed limiters and electronic on-board recorders on all heavy commercial vehicles.

Thank You for Your Generous Support!

Gifts received from 2/1/2011 through 5/31/2011

Gifts of \$5,000 and more

American Association for Justice-
Intersate Trucking Litigation Group
Million Dollar Round Table Foundation

Gifts of \$1,000- \$4,999

Mr. & Mrs. Beaumont Allen
Mr. & Mrs. Philip S. Jacobs*
The H. M. Foundation

Gifts of \$500—\$999

Ms. Karen Fitzgerald
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas O. Usilton Jr.
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Gifts of \$250—\$499

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Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Naphin
Mr. & Mrs. Paul R. Richard Jr.
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Mr. & Mrs. Tracy A. White

Gifts of \$100—\$249

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Gifts up to \$99

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Mr. James M. Delong Jr.
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Mr. & Mrs. J. Warren Ott
Ms. Lindsey Parks
Ms. Amy Schubert
Mr. & Mrs. James Snoddy
Mr. David R. Zimmerman

**denotes a board member*

Memorial Gifts

In Memory of Cullum Owings
Ms. Carol Fox
In Memory of Shelley Harmon
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Butler

To make a tax-deductible contribution to support the efforts of Road Safe America, please visit our website, www.roadsafeamerica.org. Thankyou.

RSA Awarded \$5,000 Grant

The Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT) is an international, independent association of the world's top life insurance and financial services professionals.

The MDRT Foundation awards Quality of Life Grants to selected members' designated charities based on a competitive grant application. Steve Owings and Road Safe America were honored with a \$5,000 grant. The Quality of Life Grant Program honors the selfless volunteer efforts of MDRT members who give their time to serve charitable causes in their own communities and worldwide.



RSA Founder and MDRT member, Steve Owings accepting a \$5,000 Quality of Life Award from MDRT Foundation President Robelynn Abadie.

Visit our website at www.roadsafeamerica.org

The summer of 2011 may be the most important time in the history of Road Safe America. Finally, both Houses of Congress are meeting this summer to draft the Transportation Reauthorization Bill which will fund the building of roads and bridges for up to six years. While this Bill is being written, RSA has the rare opportunity to influence legislation and make sure that our key safety initiatives, including speed limiters and electronic on-board recorders for all heavy commercial vehicles, become law.

For this reason, Road Safe America is launching an effort to raise America's awareness for the need for safety changes while the Transportation Bill is being drafted.

Some of the efforts underway are:

- A Satellite Tour where Steve Owings will be interviewed by as many as two dozen morning television and radio shows across the country.
- Release of a video to be used in various social networks highlighting the urgency of making life-saving changes in highway safety laws.
- Generation of additional signatures on our online petition to make an impressive statement to our leaders in Washington, D. C.

You can help too. Pass our message along to your friends. Contact your Senators and Congressman today and let them know that speed limiters and electronic on-board recorders are a must for highway safety. Visit our website to find your appropriate representatives. Let's make our voices heard.

Founders Steve and Susan Owings and Executive Director Tom Hodgson have been proactive this spring by taking advantage of every opportunity to promote highway safety and affect change on the legislative and regulatory level.

As a member of the Motor Carrier Safety Advisory Committee which advises the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Steve Owings attended the quarterly meeting to discuss minimum insurance requirements for the trucking industry and the patterns of safety violations of some trucking companies. Minimum insurance requirements are currently \$750,000 and have not been raised or adjusted for inflation since 1980 when they were originally set.

Susan and Steve Owings attended the Sorrow to Strength Conference in Washington, D.C. which is designed to bring together families and friends of truck crash victims and truck crash survivors. Conference attendees bring the message of the need for improved truck safety policies and laws to Capitol Hill and the Department of Transportation.

In a working session with the Department of Transportation, Road Safe America invited John Lannen of the Safe Trucking Coalition and Henry Jasny of Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety to meet with Nat Beuse and his staff who are charged with drafting the official regulation language to require speed limiters to be set at 65mph or less. This meeting underscored the importance of speed limiters and the urgency to issue this ruling through the appropriate regulatory channels.



Tom Hodgson and Steve Owings in the Richard Russell Senate Office Building outside the office of Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison.

On the legislative side, Steve and Tom met with several key staff members for Senator Mark Warner (D-VA), Senator John Thune (R-SD), Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX), Senator John Kerry (D-MA), and Senator Saxby Chambliss (R-GA). These Senators and their colleagues are responsible for rewriting the Transportation Reauthorization Bill which could include legislative requirements for speed limiters and electronic on-board recorders.

On a separate visit to Washington, D. C., Steve and Susan Owings met with John Lewis and staff members for Senator Johnny Isakson (R-GA), Congressman Frank Wolf (R-VA), Congressman Bill Shuster (R-PA), and Congressman Sam Graves (MI). Senator Isakson serves on the Senate Commerce Committee and Congressmen Shuster and Graves serve on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.



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SAVING LIVES. ONE MILE AT A TIME.

Summer Driving— More Teens & More Trucks. Let's be alert!

Did you Know?

Summer is here and the highways are filling up. Even with gas prices unusually high, the family car is still being loaded and our highways are packed. Road Safe America wants to alert our friends to a dangerous mix coming to the roads this summer: *Rookie truck drivers and teens behind the steering wheels of passenger cars.*

Truck driving jobs generally peak in early summer and the training schools are promising Commercial Driver's Licenses and jobs in just three weeks. That means a higher percentage of inexperienced truckers will be sharing our highways just as school lets out and the teens hit the road.

Liberty Mutual Insurance recently published these statistics regarding summer driving and teens:

'More teens are driving' - they average 44% more hours behind the wheel each week during the summer (23.6 hours) than during the school year.

'They're piling in' - 23% of teens drive with three or more teen passengers during the summer compared to 6% during the school year.

'Later nights' - 72% of teens say they stay out later during the summer than the school year.

'Heavy eyelids' - 24% are more likely to drive when tired or sleepy during the summer, compared to 9% during the school year.

The American Trucking Associations (ATA) is expecting total freight growth to increase 24% in the next ten years.

Given this expectation, the ATA wants to increase truck weights from the current maximum of 80,000 lbs. to nearly 100,000 lbs. arguing that this will avoid adding more trucks to our highways. But adding more than 20,000 lbs. to a trailer brings increased risk.

RSA believes using the railroads is a much safer way to move freight and would reduce the number of commercial trucks on the highways. Whether or not trucks get heavier, America **MUST** start using speed limiters, collision avoidance technology, and enhanced braking technology for these heavy rigs.

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