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Major Developments: Speed Limiters & Electronic On-Board Recorders are in Rulemaking Process!!!

Dear Friends:

We are thrilled to report that two of our top goals are now officially in the rulemaking process! The DOT has taken steps that, if finalized, will result in RSA's vision for much safer US highways.

On January 3, 2011 the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) acted on RSA's petition and filed a "Grant Petition" signaling their intention to require speed limiters to be set at a reasonable top speed on all heavy commercial vehicles. This is a major accomplishment! Although speed limiters are already used by many of our country's largest trucking firms, other trucking companies have not activated these safety devices, resulting in dangerous speeding by too many heavy commercial vehicles on our highways. Mandating the use of speed limiters will greatly reduce the potential for fatalities and injuries caused by speeding large trucks.

The second development occurred on January 31, 2011 when the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) stated they were going forward with a rule requiring all interstate heavy trucks to use Electronic On-Board Recorders (EOBRs). These mini-computers which are connected

to a truck's engine, will accurately track the hours a truck has been traveling. The ability to falsify the old-fashioned paper logbook and permit a trucker to drive more than the eleven hours per day currently allowed will be eliminated. When the use of EOBRs becomes law, it will stop the abuse of drive time and significantly reduce the danger of fatigued drivers. In addition, major financial penalties will be charged to drivers who attempt to alter the information on EOBR devices.

It is imperative that the speed limiter and EOBR rulings be enacted simultaneously to prevent unintended dangerous consequences. If only one of these two proposed rules becomes law, it could actually have a negative impact: if trucks are forced to drive a safe top speed but can still drive long hours, then fatigued professional drivers will remain a hazard. Conversely, if the truckers are limited in their drive time but not in their speed, it is possible for unsafe driving to continue—safety conditions will not improve. Both rules must be enacted.

Even though there are some in the industry against these changes, it is satisfying to see that our common sense approach not only resonates with the general public, but also with our government.

The use of speed limiters and EOBRs were RSA's top two initiatives in a six-point agenda, submitted to NHTSA and FMCSA last summer, to make our highways safer. While we realize more time is needed for research and discussions concerning the details of these proposed regulations, the momentum is going in the right direction.

In the following pages you will find the real heroes of this team effort, you—our supporters. Without your labor, thoughts, prayers, and financial support, this would not have been possible.

We are so grateful,



Susan and Steve



Curtis Johnson of the DOT escorts Tom Hodgson and Steve Owings to the private briefing by DOT to Road Safe America on January 25, 2011. Not pictured but at the meeting were Susan Owings of RSA and Rob Hall, RSA's advisor in DC.

Thank You for Your Generous Support!

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SAVING LIVES. ONE MILE AT A TIME.

Advocacy at its Finest

Road Safe America has learned a valuable lesson this past year regarding a profession which is often maligned in the press. Articles concerning lobbyists are filled with stories of wild expense accounts, back-office politics, and other unsavory practices. However, RSA has learned the other side of the profession and we want to tell our supporters of the help we have received from a reputable firm in our capital city.

Slightly over a year ago, thanks to RSA Board member, Jim Irwin (who previously worked on Capitol Hill), we were introduced to Rob Hall and Pete Halpin of Dutko Worldwide, a highly respected lobbying firm located in the shadow of the U.S. Capitol. Both of these gentlemen are long-time legislative professionals, having put in their time as staffers for key legislators and Congressional committees. As is the normal path for most good lobbyists, they then

turned their knowledge toward helping the *outside-the-beltway* crowd to navigate the political process.

With the help of Rob and Pete we have had many successful meetings. Dutko's reputation and Rob and Pete's experience and knowledge of relevant legislation and key personnel has enabled us to make great progress.

We are most grateful to Dutko Worldwide for providing RSA with generous contributions of their valuable time pro bono, allowing us to use your donations on education, research, recognition, and communication. Our gratitude to Rob, Pete, and Dutko Worldwide.

Drive Safer Sunday



RSA Executive Director Tom Hodgson addresses the Press announcing Drive Safer Sunday on November 22, 2010. Surrounding Tom are members of the Atlanta Police Department and the Georgia State Patrol showing support for Drive Safer Sunday and announcing their own Click-it or Ticket campaign.

Drive Safer Sunday continues to spread our message about safe driving throughout the country.

Visit our website at www.roadsafeamerica.org