

The Honorable Ted Cruz
United States Senate
167 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cruz,

On behalf of Fort Bend County, we stand with the National Association of Counties (NACo) and other counties across the state in opposing any federal legislation allowing heavier or longer tractor-trailers on our roads. Specifically, we oppose ~~H.R. 3372 and H.R. 7496~~ **legislation** that would increase truck weights and jeopardize the public safety and welfare of residents, pedestrians, and motorists in our community. In addition, this legislation would not only increase the cost of infrastructure maintenance in our county but would also be detrimental to its quality and reliability.

According to a local bridge study conducted by the Coalition Against Bigger Trucks (CABT), Fort Bend County has approximately 781 bridges of which 27.9% are in fair or poor condition with an estimated cost of over \$7.6 million in order to retrofit or rebuild those bridges to accommodate 91,000 pound trucks. In addition, driving on deteriorated roads costs Texas motorists \$17.8 billion per year – \$948 per motorist – in the form of additional repairs, accelerated vehicle depreciation, and increased fuel consumption and tire wear (TRIP 2024).

Longer double-trailer trucks and heavier trucks on the National Highway System would threaten the safety of the traveling public due to the increased difficulty to control, increase wear and tear on truck safety systems such as brakes, steering and tires, and increase crash severity. The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) concluded that multi-trailer trucks have an 11-percent higher fatal crash rate than single-trailer trucks. Limited state testing has shown that heavier configurations had crash rates that were 47-400% higher than standard 80,000 pound trucks.

According to the most recent data by the *Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA)*, there was a 41.4% increase in fatal crashes involving large semi-trucks in Texas between 2012 to 2022. We are extremely concerned that increased semi-truck weight legislation is being considered when the current crash statistics continue to increase.

Fort Bend County residents are highly dependent on multiple roadways all of which are already heavily impacted by truck size and weight. In addition, we are concerned with the difficulty of maintaining public works budgets and due to the proposed legislation being unfunded mandates, could further burden Fort Bend County residents due to the need for new fees and taxes to pay for the shortened infrastructure maintenance schedule.

As elected representatives of Fort Bend County we are charged with protecting its residents and motorists who travel our roads and highways. We respectfully request that you oppose any and all current and future legislation pertaining to heavier and bigger trucks.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature of County Judge KP George

Signature of Commissioner Vincent Morales, Precinct 1

Signature of Commissioner Grady Prestage, Precinct 2

Signature of Commissioner Andy Meyers, Precinct 3

Signature of Commissioner Dexter L. McCoy, Precinct 4

The Honorable John Cornyn, III
United States Senate
517 Hart Senate Office
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cornyn, III,

On behalf of Fort Bend County, we stand with the National Association of Counties (NACo) and other counties across the state in opposing any federal legislation allowing heavier or longer tractor-trailers on our roads. Specifically, we oppose H.R. 3372 and H.R. 7496 that would increase truck weights and jeopardize the public safety and welfare of residents, pedestrians and motorists in our community. In addition, this legislation would not only increase the cost of infrastructure maintenance in our county but would also be detrimental to its quality and reliability.

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Signature of Commissioner Grady Prestage, Precinct 2

Signature of Commissioner Andy Meyers, Precinct 3

Signature of Commissioner Dexter L. McCoy, Precinct 4

The Honorable Troy Nehls
United States House of Representatives
1104 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Nehls,

On behalf of Fort Bend County, we stand with the National Association of Counties (NACo) and other counties across the state in opposing any federal legislation allowing heavier or longer tractor-trailers on our roads. Specifically, we oppose H.R. 3372 and H.R. 7496 that would increase truck weights and jeopardize the public safety and welfare of residents, pedestrians and motorists in our community. In addition, this legislation would not only increase the cost of infrastructure maintenance in our county but would also be detrimental to its quality and reliability.

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