



Attachment 1:

February 9, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

I write this letter on behalf of the Idaho Potato Commission ("IPC"), a statutorily created agency of the State of Idaho. IPC is governed by nine Commissioners appointed by the Governor of the State of Idaho. There are five grower commissioners, two shipper commissioners and two processor Commissioners, thus making IPC the primary representative of the entire Idaho potato industry.

Potatoes are one of the most important crops to Idaho's economy. Every spring Idaho growers plant approximately 320,000 acres of potatoes, which result in farm gate revenue of nearly \$1 billion dollars. The total economic impact of the Idaho potato industry is over \$4 billion dollars. Idaho potato producers are keenly aware of input costs, of which shipping and trucking are playing an increasing role in cost of production.

The Idaho potato industry faces many challenges every year. This year, one of our biggest challenges is transportation. The IPC is extremely concerned about the negative and costly impact Electronic Logging Devices (ELDs) have recently had on the Idaho potato industry. Since November, our industry has repeatedly notified us that ELDs and Hours of Service (HOS) rules have caused a substantial increase in transportation costs. In some cases, rates have increased an additional 40-60% for both trucks and rail service over the last few months. In a trucking industry that is already struggling with a shortage of drivers, we believe that ELDs have directly contributed to this increased cost.

This has especially had a negative impact on the supply of transportation. We believe this is not only an issue in the Idaho potato industry, but one that is affecting all commodities and products around the country. We regularly hear accounts of product being discarded because trucking could not be found in time and of drivers who were required to shut down and rest for the mandatory 13 hours despite being within 100 miles of returning home.

IDAHO POTATO COMMISSION

661 S Rivershore Lane, Suite 230 | Eagle, Idaho 83616 | tel 208.334.2350 | fax 208.334.2274 | www.idahopotato.com



In the interest of minimizing these negative consequences to our industry, we request that the comment period for filing comments with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration be extended for an additional ninety (90) days. We also request that the “Limited 90-Day Waiver for the Transportation of Agricultural Commodities” that was published on December 18, 2017 be extended for an additional nine (9) months to December 18, 2018.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Frank Muir", is written over the "Best Regards," text.

Frank Muir
President & CEO
Idaho Potato Commission
661 S. Rivershore Lane, Suite 230
Eagle, ID 83616