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10 May, 2011

Administrator Anne S. Ferro
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation
Re: Federal Register Notice: April 13, 2011 (Volume 76, Number 71)
Page 20807-20819, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation
Docket No. FMCSA-2011-0097
Pilot Program on NAFTA Long-Haul Trucking Provisions

Dear Ms Ferro:

Because roughly half of wheat produced in the United States is exported each year, the free and fair flow of trade is essential to American wheat farmers. In the most recent marketing year of 2009/10, the United States exported 24 million metric tons (MMT) of wheat, roughly 40 percent of production. World wheat exports in 2009/10 were estimated at 135.8 MMT, with the United States accounting for nearly 18 percent of global exports. Based on a five-year average, Mexico is the third largest export destination for U.S. wheat producers based on a five year average and in the 2009/10 marketing year, the U.S. exported two million metric tons to Mexico. In 2009/10, U.S. wheat exports worldwide totaled \$5.3 billion, and Mexico accounted for almost a half billion dollars.

The U.S. wheat industry supports measures that facilitate trade and allow U.S. producers to compete on a fair and level playing field in markets around the world. As such, the U.S. wheat industry supports the proposed long-haul trucking pilot program between the United States and Mexico to fulfill our North American Free Trade Agreement responsibilities. The United States expects trading partners to live up to their trade commitments, and our country must also fulfill our obligations to avoid further trade retaliation measures that hinder open trade.

U.S. wheat producers encourage the Department of Transportation Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to adopt the proposed long-haul trucking pilot program expeditiously. The U.S. wheat industry cannot afford to lose the Mexican market. By moving forward with the pilot program, we meet our international trade commitments and reassure all of our trading partners that the United States is the most trustworthy and reliable trade partner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shannon Schlecht".

Shannon Schlecht
Director of Policy
U.S. Wheat Associates

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dana Peterson".

Dana Peterson
Chief Executive Officer
National Association of Wheat Growers