

103D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. CON. RES. 36

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress that United States truck safety standards are of paramount importance to the implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

S. CON. RES. 36

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas the North American Free Trade Agreement in requiring the United States, Mexico, and Canada to “harmonize” their trucking safety standards should ensure the continuing application of vital United States safety standards;

Whereas the North American Free Trade Agreement will permit Mexican trucking companies and Mexican drivers to operate in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California after 3 years and throughout the United States after 6 years;

Whereas the United States truck driver fatigue rules limit drivers to 10 hours per day behind the wheel, Canada allows 13 hours without rest, and Mexico has no limitations on truck driver time;

Whereas front brakes are required on United States trucks but are not required on Mexican trucks, and the lack of front brakes reduces stopping ability and increases a truck’s susceptibility to jackknifing;

Whereas the United States maximum gross vehicle weight limit is 80,000 pounds without a special permit, compared to 137,000 pounds in Canada and 171,000 pounds in Mexico;

Whereas Mexico does not have a truck driver records system and the Canadian system does not link with the United States system, thereby making it impossible for enforcement officials in the United States to identify suspended or revoked drivers, or drivers with disqualifying offenses such as drunk, drugged, or reckless driving; and

Whereas only the United States requires industry-wide random testing for drugs and alcohol: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
 2 *concurring)*, That it is the intent of the Congress that the
 3 Secretary of Transportation, in carrying out harmoni-
 4 zation negotiations under the auspices of the Land Trans-
 5 portation Standards Subcommittee established under arti-
 6 cle 913 of the North American Free Trade Agreement,
 7 shall uphold all United States truck safety standards, in-
 8 cluding truck sizes and weights, and safety standards such
 9 as truck driver hours of service, front brake and other
 10 safety equipment requirements, and the truck driver
 11 record system.

Passed the Senate November 20 (legislative day, November 2), 1993.

Attest:

Secretary.