



Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association, Inc.

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May 11, 2015

Via Email

The Honorable Brad Jacobsen
Michigan State Representative, District 46
Anderson House Office Building
N-895 House Office Building
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Representative Jacobsen:

The purpose of this letter is to convey the support of the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association (OOIDA) regarding HB 4423.

OOIDA is the largest trade association representing the views of small-business, professional truckers. OOIDA has more than 150,000 members nationwide, including roughly 5,000 who reside in Michigan and thousands more that frequently travel on MI roadways to serve customers throughout the state and neighboring jurisdictions.

It is our understanding that HB 4423, as introduced and in part, would allow commercial trucks – and other vehicles with a gross vehicle weight of 10,000 pounds or more – to operate at 70 mph on certain highways and limited access freeways within the state. Currently, commercial trucks are limited to 55 mph on highways and 60 mph on limited access freeways, which is generally 10 mph slower than existing speed limits for most other vehicles on the same roadways.

OOIDA believes that our roadways are safer when all vehicles are permitted to travel at the same rate of speed. Differential speed limits create more interactions between cars and trucks, which can lead to unlawful or dangerous passing, aggressive driving, and ultimately an increase in the number and severity of accidents. They are also a contributing factor to increased congestion and inefficiencies with local, regional, and national goods movement.

OOIDA has long been an advocate for improving motor vehicle safety, which includes pursuing and maintaining uniform speed limits. We also believe that state lawmakers and transportation officials are in the best position to determine the maximum uniform speed at which all motorists can operate safely. We support HB 4423, as introduced, because it would create uniform speed limits on MI highways and freeways; however, we have no official position on any other provision in the proposed legislation.

Thank you for your consideration of our views. If we have misinterpreted this legislation or if you have any questions or would like to discuss this issue in more detail, please contact me directly at (816) 229-5791 ext. 1603 or mike_matousek@ooida.com.

Sincerely,



Mike Matousek
Director of State Legislative Affairs

Cc: The Honorable Peter Pettalia
Committee Chair
Transportation and Infrastructure
The Honorable Ben Glardon
Majority Vice-Chair
Transportation and Infrastructure
The Honorable Marilyn Lane
Minority Vice-Chair
Transportation and Infrastructure