




NEWS RELEASE

4554 114th Street  Urbandale, Iowa 50322-5410
Phone (515) 727-0665  FAX (515) 251-8657  www.soytransportation.org
Funded by the soybean checkoff



Date: July 1, 2009
Contact: Mike Steenhoek,
Executive Director
515-727-0665

Soy Transportation Coalition publishes Semi Weight Analysis

Urbandale, Iowa — The Soy Transportation Coalition (STC) recently published, “Heavier Semis: A Good Idea?” – a study analyzing the likely results of expanding semi weight limits over the federal highway system.

The study compares and contrasts the potential impact of the current 80,000 lb, five axle semi configuration and an expanded 97,000 lb, six axle configuration on three areas: motorist safety, infrastructure integrity, and cost savings and efficiency gains for the soybean industry. The goal of the study is to highlight whether expanding semi weight limits is a viable and common sense approach for enhancing transportation capacity and mitigating highway congestion.

Dean Campbell, a soybean producer from Coulterville, Illinois, and Chair of the Soy Transportation Coalition argues, "All of us in this country desire to have a strong, healthy economy. However, we have failed to provide a strong, healthy transportation system to enable our economy - particularly our rural economy - to thrive. We need to find ways to increase the efficiency of all modes of transportation while not endangering fellow motorists or causing added stress on the existing infrastructure. The Soy Transportation Coalition's analysis on semi weight limits assists in this effort."

"What Americans produce, manufacture, purchase and consume requires a transportation system to deliver products in a cost effective, reliable manner," says Mike Steenhoek, executive director of the Soy Transportation Coalition. "By all estimates, our nation's highways and interstates are increasingly incapable of accommodating these demands - resulting in a further drag on our overall economy, including the agricultural sector. Increasing semi weight limits offers the potential of relieving a degree of pressure on this overly congested system. However, because it is a hotly contested, controversial issue, it was prudent for the soybean farmers to take an inventory of the available research and analysis on this subject as well as determine the potential cost savings and efficiency gains realized by the soybean industry. We believe our report will add value to the overall debate."

The full STC study, “Heavier Semis: A Good Idea?” as well as an executive summary can be accessed at the STC’s website: www.soytransportation.org.

Established in 2007, the Soy Transportation Coalition is comprised of seven state soybean boards, the American Soybean Association, and the United Soybean Board. The goal of the organization is to position the soybean industry to benefit from a transportation system that delivers cost effective, reliable and competitive service.