



September 28, 2012

Document Management Facility
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.W.
West Building, Ground Floor
Room W-12-140
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Attention: Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Self-Reporting of Out-of-State Convictions
DOT Docket No: FMCSA-2012-0172

Dear Sir or Madam:

The National School Transportation Association (NSTA) is pleased to offer comments to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on self-reporting of out-of-state convictions, as published in Volume 77 of the *Federal Register* on August 2, 2012. The Proposed Rule would reduce the individual reporting requirement of out-of-state traffic convictions as states with certified CDL programs already report a CDL license holder's out-of-state traffic conviction. All 50 states and the District of Columbia participate in the certified CDL program.

The National School Transportation Association (NSTA) is the membership organization for school bus companies engaged primarily in transporting students to and from school and school-related activities under contract to public school districts. Our members offer a range of services to our school district partners, from full turn-key service to management operations and specialized transportation. NSTA members range from small family businesses serving one district to large corporations operating thousands of buses across many states, all committed to the safe, efficient, and economical transportation of America's children.

Our contractors are responsible for ensuring the safe transportation of all passengers on their school buses. To that end, the timely notification of traffic convictions is critical to ensuring this safety. Timely notification is also essential in ensuring proper insurance coverage for the fleet and its passengers. Some of our members have expressed concern that while the proposal to reduce the reporting burden sounds simple enough, removing the requirements of the driver

could result in unintended consequences. It is our concern that if there is no obligation on the part of the driver to notify the state of their conviction, that same driver could continue to operate a school bus following a conviction before the conviction is known to his or her employer and appropriate action, including notification to the insurance company, is taken by the employer.

The school bus is the safest form of transportation currently available to students – and is eight times safer than riding in the family vehicle. All of our members want to ensure that this safety record is not compromised in any way.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. If you require further clarification, please contact me at (703) 684-3200.

Sincerely,

Ronna Sable Weber
Executive Director
National School Transportation Association