



August 13, 2021

Pete Buttigieg, Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

cc: Carlos Monje (Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy), Polly Trottenberg (Deputy Secretary), Steven Cliff (NHTSA Acting Administrator), Meera Joshi (FMCSA Deputy Administrator), Dani Simons (Director of Public Affairs), Robin Hutcherson (Deputy Assistant Secretary for Safety Policy), Ryan Posten (NHTSA Associate Administrator for Rulemaking), Larry Minor (FMCSA Associate Administrator for Policy & Program Development), Jack Van Steenburg (FMCSA Executive Director & Chief Safety Officer), Kala Wright (FMCSA External Affairs Director), Tom Keane (FMCSA Officer of Safety Programs)

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Senator Blumenthal (D-CT) and Representative Schakowsky (D-IL) recently introduced the [Road to Zero Resolution](#) calling for an end to traffic deaths -- which includes preventable truck underride deaths. Senators Markey (D-MA), Wyden (D-OR), King (I-ME), Klobuchar (D-MN) and Luján (D-NM), as well as Representatives Norton (D-DC), Rush (D-IL), Garamendi (D-CA), Sires (D-NJ), Napolitano (D-CA), Auchincloss (D-MA), Huffman (D-CA), Krishnamoorthi (D-IL), Fitzpatrick (R-PA), and Peters (D-CA) became co-sponsors.

Building upon that initiative, **we are petitioning the U.S. Department of Transportation** to take specific immediate action towards the goal of ending traffic deaths by including Single Unit Trucks and vulnerable road users in the scope of mandated and studied comprehensive underride protection, as called for in the [STOP Underrides Bill](#). SUTs outnumber tractor-trailers and, in fact, comprehensive underride protection on them has already been [recommended by the NTSB](#) and the [IIHS](#). Yet SUTs are not included in the Underride Sections of the recently passed [Senate](#) and [House](#) Infrastructure legislation.

Therefore, we are asking that you expedite work on the 2014 [Karth Family petition](#) for underride protection on Single Unit Trucks by taking the following actions:

1. Establish the Advisory Committee On Underride Protection, as called for in the [STOP Underrides Bill](#) and the Infrastructure Legislation in both the House and Senate.

2. Proceed immediately to issue a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) for comprehensive override protection on Single Unit Trucks - front, side, and rear.
3. Add language explicitly stating that all mandated and studied comprehensive override guards are to protect *all* road users, including [Vulnerable Road Users](#).

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne & Jerry Karth
AnnaLeah & Mary for Truck Safety

The following individuals and/or organizations recently signed a letter of support requesting U.S. legislators amend the Infrastructure legislation to include a Single Unit Truck override mandate and to protect *all* road users, including VRUs:

Stephen Bingham
Sylvia Bingham Fund

Louis Lombardo
Care for Crash Victims

Eric Hein, Bereaved Father, Portland, Oregon
In Memory of Riley Eric Hein, 1999-2015

Michael Hawkins
Truck Crash Survivor, 2003
Travelers Rest, SC

Anna Leslie
Allston Brighton Health Collaborative

Raylen Dziengelewski
Transportation for Massachusetts

Stephen Eimers
In memory of Hannah Eimers

Stacy Thompson
LivableStreets Alliance

Emily Stein
Safe Roads Alliance

Susan Wilkinson
Somerville Alliance for Safe Streets

Stacey Beuttell
WalkBoston

Becca Wolfson
Boston Cyclists Union

Massachusetts Vision Zero Coalition
Allston Brighton Health Collaborative
Boston Cyclist Union
Cambridge Bicycle Safety
Green Streets Initiative
Institute for Transportation Development and Policy
LivableStreets Alliance
Massachusetts Bicycle Coalition
Safe Roads Alliance
TransitMatters
Transportation for Massachusetts
WalkBoston
WalkUP Roslindale

Jes Slavin
Massachusetts Bicycle Coalition

Kate Fillin-Yeh
National Association of City Transportation Officials

Leah Shahum
Vision Zero Network

Amy Cohen
Families for Safe Streets

Lois Durso-Hawkins
Stop Underrides - In Loving Memory of Roya

Mark Hawkins
Stop Underrides - In Loving Memory of Roya

John Lannen
Institute for Safer Trucking

Harry Adler
Institute for Safer Trucking

Julia Wallerce
Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP)

Todd and Cindy Zimmerman
In Memory of Kaylyn Hunter Gatlin

Dave Snyder
California Bicycle Coalition

Bill Bronrott

Cathy Bell-Forman
In Memory of Leslie and Sophie Rosenberg

Zach Cahalan, Executive Director
Truck Safety Coalition

Cathy Chase, President
Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety

Patricia Gallery
President, Board of Directors
Trips for Kids National

Aly Geller
Signing on behalf of San Francisco Bay Area Families for Safe Streets

Keith D. Wolf
In Memory of Alexander David Wolf

Cathy Bell-Forman
In Memory of Leslie and Sophie Rosenberg