

BIGGER TRUCKS THREATEN TEXAS



Lobbyists in Austin are urging the Texas Legislature to allow heavier trucks up to 100,000 pounds on our state and local roads—a 25 percent increase in truck weight. These proposals (SB 1524 and HB 3854) would create serious safety issues and further endanger Texas motorists. In fact, USDOT experts recommended last year against allowing bigger trucks. And in 2015, Congress voted to reject both heavier and longer trucks.

Bigger Trucks Endanger Texans

Trucks are an important part of Texas' economy, but bigger trucks are simply unsafe. Allowing trucks to haul even heavier loads only increases the dangers to our residents. USDOT found in its 2016 Final Report to Congress that heavier trucks have dramatically higher crash rates in limited state testing:

- **400 percent higher crash rates in Michigan** (97,000 pounds)
- **99 percent higher crash rates in Idaho** (97,000 pounds)
- **47 percent higher crash rates in Washington state** (91,000 pounds)

Additional truck weight is likely to lead to brake-maintenance problems, more truck rollovers, trucks that are harder to steer, and more severe crashes. Adding weight makes a truck more likely to have out-of-service violations, making the truck over three times more likely to crash.

Bigger Trucks Mean More Trucks on Local Roads

With Congress rejecting heavier trucks on Interstates, approving this proposal in Texas would mean the heaviest trucks would operate off of the Interstates and on state roads, through our towns and communities.

Supporters of bigger trucks say these rigs are just as safe, but law enforcement leaders and truck drivers agree that adding weight to a truck makes it more dangerous, especially in a collision.

**Tell your Texas legislators that you oppose heavier, more dangerous trucks.
Find out more at www.noheaviertruckstexas.org.**

JUST THE FACTS:

- USDOT recommended last year against any increases in the weight or length of trucks. Congress rejected nationwide increases in 2015.
- USDOT found in its report that heavier trucks have higher overall out-of-service violation rates and 18 percent higher brake violation rates. (USDOT)
- The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety found in a 2016 study that a truck with any out-of-service violation is 362 percent more likely to be involved in a crash. (IIHS)
- Over 95 percent of law enforcement officers surveyed believe that adding more weight makes a truck more dangerous. Over 90 percent of truck drivers surveyed say more weight negatively impacts braking. (Marshall University-led study)

CABT
Coalition Against Bigger Trucks