

March 4, 2011

WASHINGTON, DC – Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR), Ranking Member of the House Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, cautioned the Obama Administration on their announced intention to move forward with a cross-border trucking pilot program.

DeFazio issued the following statement:

“I am glad a deal has been reached to reduce the extortionate Mexican tariffs unfairly slapped on American goods. Lifting these tariffs will bring needed relief to businesses and farmers in my district. However, I continue to have serious concerns about the safety of Mexican trucks on our roads and the potential loss of American jobs.

There are three issues we need to examine around the cross-border trucking program: safety, security and job loss. These issues must be addressed by the Obama administration and the

Mexican government before we take any action.

Mexico lacks adequate standards for issuing commercial driver's licenses, hours of service regulations, and drug and alcohol testing. Mexican trucks pose a threat to the safety of our traveling public.

I am very concerned that a potential cross-border pilot program will be a one-way ticket for Mexican trucks to come north and threaten the American trucking industry. We can safely bet that American companies won't go south due to concerns about lawlessness and drug-related crime. If we open our borders to Mexican trucks and give them free range in America, American truckers with a decent family wage will lose work to under- or un-qualified Mexican truckers working for a buck an hour. This could jeopardize hundreds of thousands of American jobs.

I eagerly await the opportunity to scrutinize the details of this pilot program and will continue to fight to keep our roads safe and secure, and protect vital American jobs.”

BACKGROUND

In April 2009, Mexico first announced that it would place tariffs on 90 U.S. export products in retaliation for Congress voting to end the Mexican Cross-Border Trucking Demonstration

Program. The tariffs are illegal under NAFTA. DeFazio has led several bi-partisan efforts to end the program in the past four years.

Last year, DeFazio led 78 bi-partisan members in sending the Obama administration a letter urging the administration to take action against Mexico's illegal tariffs.

Objection to the program is predominantly due to Mexico's less stringent regulations on hours-of-service, vehicle safety, and driver training and licensing. Several of the tariffs are aimed at products produced in the districts of Members of Congress who have been actively opposed to the pilot program.

DeFazio sent a letter in January 2011 asking Subcommittee on Highways and Transit Chairman John Duncan to hold hearings on the U.S. Department of Transportation Mexican truck concept document released after the first of the year.

To access the radio actuality:

For Internet Explorer users:

1. Go to the following website: www.defazio.house.gov
2. Select "radio actualities" from the "press" drop down menu on the top right hand side.

Right click on the file entitled "[3.3.11 DeFazio Reacts to Mexican truck announcement](#)" from the menu to save the file on your computer.

For Mozilla Firefox users:

1. Go to the following website: www.defazio.house.gov
2. Select "radio actualities" from the "press" drop down menu on the top right hand side.

Right click on the file entitled "[3.3.11 DeFazio Reacts to Mexican truck announcement](#)" from the menu to save the file on your computer.

3. Choose "Save Link as..." from the menu to save the file on your computer.

If you have any problems or questions about downloading the feed, please contact Jen Gilbreath at (202) 225-6416.

- 30 -