

I am speaking on this issue as a Maine citizen as I feel I can best express the impact this rule exemption would have at the local and state level.

Granting the US Postal Service an exemption to the Hours of Service rule would not provide any benefit to the community and would subject the citizens of Maine to unsafe conditions on our roadways. Maine enacted a Tired-Trucker law due to the unnecessary loss of life and economic devastation caused to victims of inexperienced and over-tired truckers on Maine Interstate highways and town roads.

The Postal Service has every ability at this point in time to deliver mail to processing plants in an efficient and safe manner. The Postal Service has a responsibility to be a good corporate citizen in every state that it operates and Maine should not be an exception. The lives of Postal Service employees and its customers should be the deciding factor rather than an attempt to minimize costs on the backs of those citizens.

I also question why the Postal Service would seek an exception for independent companies that contract with the Postal Service for Highway Contract Routes. That responsibility rests with each individual company. The Postal Service has no jurisdiction in such matters and would better served to minimize costs by eliminating unnecessary management positions and utilizing best business practices that transcend television screens during 60 second commercials.

The Postal Service feels it has a win-win situation here as the Service will reap the benefits of extending hours for fewer employees during the day and letting small to medium sized trucking companies absorb the liability when their employees cause death and/or injury. This exception is bad for Maine and it deserves to be rejected.