



January 22, 2025

Dear Members of the House Committee on Transportation,

We are writing to express our opposition to Senate Bill 1407, which would increase the allowable weight limit for trucks to 113,000 pounds. While we appreciate the unique challenges of transportation in the state, solutions must not come at the expense of public safety and infrastructure.

The Coalition Against Bigger Trucks is a national coalition of law enforcement leaders and public officials who are opposed to increases in truck size and weight due to severe public safety and infrastructure concerns.

SB 1407 would allow trucks 15 tons heavier than the national standard for tractor-trailers that weigh 80,000 pounds. In 2016, the U.S. Department of Transportation recommended against any size or weight increases. They found significant safety issues with trucks exceeding 80,000 pounds, including higher out-of-service violations, higher brake violations, increased rollover risk and higher crash rates in limited state testing. It's simple physics – heavier trucks are harder to stop, more difficult to control, and lead to more severe crashes.

In 2022, the year with the most recently available data, North Dakota saw 656 large truck crashes¹ resulting in 31 fatalities². This represents a staggering 138% increase compared to the previous year. As we work to reduce traffic fatalities, now is not the time to put even more dangerous trucks on the road.

Heavier trucks pose a significant threat to infrastructure as well. Of the 4,255 bridges in North Dakota, nearly 500 are rated in poor condition³. By percentage, this places the state among the bottom ten in the nation. Heavier trucks increase the wear and tear on bridges, shortening lifespans and necessitating expensive repairs. The impact on local infrastructure is particularly concerning given these trucks would not be allowed to operate on interstate highways.

Due to the significant threat these trucks would pose to public safety and infrastructure, we ask for your opposition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Brad Roseberry'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the 'y'.

Brad Roseberry
President
Coalition Against Bigger Trucks

¹ Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration; 2022. MCMIS Database

² National Highway Traffic Safety Administration; 2022. FARS Database

³ Federal Highway Administration, 2023. *Bridge Condition by Highway System, 2023*