



Minutes Meeting of October 17, 2023

FMCSA's Truck Leasing Task Force (TLTF) met virtually on October 17, 2023, via Zoom. In accordance with the provisions of Public Law 92-463, the meeting was open to the public. Larry Minor, Designated Federal Officer (DFO), called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

The following individuals attended the public meeting:

TLTF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Steve Rush, Founder, Carbon Express, Inc, Chair
Tamara Brock, Lewis & Lewis Logistics LLC
Paul Cullen, The Cullen Law Firm PLLC
Jim Jefferson, Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association (OOIDA)
Joshua Krause, OTRLeasing LLC
Kaitlyn Long, International Brotherhood of Teamsters
Lesley Tse, Of Counsel, Getman, Sweeney & Dunn PLLC
Steve Viscelli, Professor, University of Pennsylvania

FMCSA AND OTHER GOVERNMENTAL REPRESENTATIVES

Larry Minor, Associate Administrator for Policy, DFO
Shannon Watson, Senior Policy Advisor and Deputy DFO
Ryan Kelly, Risk Monitoring Program Manager Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
Emma Oppenheim, Senior Fellow, Workers Initiative, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
Gilberto Castro, Border Inspector, Texas Division
Bennie Cheatham, Safety Investigator, Georgia Division
Justine Chen, Writer-Editor, Office of Communications
Keyanna Frazier, Audit Liaison, Office of Policy
Stephen Garcia, Transportation Specialist, Office of Safety
Evangela Hollowell, Equity Program Analyst, Office of Policy
Traci Johnson, Safety Operations Program Manager, Western Service Center
Michael Jordan, Management & Program Analyst, Office of Policy
Tom Keane, Associate Administrator for Research and Registration
Kimberly Lambert, Chief, Strategic Planning and Program Evaluation Division
Mike Lamm, Assistant Division Administrator, Texas
Wendy Liberante, Director of Policy, Strategic Planning & Regulations, Office of Policy
Nicholas Lockhart, Management Analyst, Office of Policy
Gregory Miller, Ethics Attorney, Office of Chief Counsel
Crystal Polk, Management and Program Analyst, Office of Policy
Monique Riddick, Chief, Commercial Enforcement Division, Office of Safety
Jose Rivas, Transportation Specialist, Compliance Division
Julianne Schwarzer, Volpe Center
Eran Segev, Volpe Center
Philip Thomas, Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety
Donnice Wagoner, Lead Transportation Specialist, Commercial Enforcement Division
Ghita Wahdani, Management Analyst, Office of Policy
Cicely Waters, Director, Office of Communications



Joung-Won Lee, Mathematical Statistician, Office of Policy
Kala Wright, Director of External Affairs

OTHER ATTENDEES

Rosalva Alfaro, Interflet Transport Inc
David Brannan, The Evans Network of Companies
C Chey, Self
Jon Coca, Diamond Transportation System, Inc.
Shannon Cohen, Scopelitis, Garvin, Light, Hanson & Feary
Charity Coleman, Changeis
David Cullen, Commercial Carrier Journal
Jim Fetzer, Land Line Now
John Gallagher, FreightWaves
Jay Grimes, OOIDA
Larisa Gurau, Safety Logistics Group Incorporated
Loredana Horoi, Self
Katrina Jordan, Intact Insurance
Anna Lach-Zynwala, Intact Insurance
Jason Musselman, Transportation Compliance Services USA
Tyler Pieper, Changeis
Konrad Pilatowicz, U-Haul International
Lewie Pugh, OOIDA
Joe Rajkovic, Western States Trucking Association
Cassandra Raposo, Changeis
Jeff Reed, Tennessee Highway Patrol
Danial Salman, University of Washington
Mark Schremmer, Land Line Magazine
Henry Seaton, Law Office of Seaton & Husk LP
Reed Shaw, Governing for Impact
Travis Smith, NXT Gen Transport LLC
Ryan Snyder, Truck Renting and Leasing Association
Dee Studebaker, OOIDA
David Taube, Industry Dive
Norita Taylor, OOIDA
Jay Thompson, Yasawa Group Ltd
Joe Waldvogel, Trend Moving LLC

REMARKS AND COMMITTEE ACTION

Larry Minor, Associate Administrator for Policy, FMCSA and DFO, welcomed TLTF members with Shannon Watson, Deputy DFO. Committee members introduced themselves and Steve Rush, TLTF Chair, gave opening remarks. Mr. Rush reminded the committee that its role is to stop predatory practices in the Commercial Motor Vehicle industry.

TLTF approved the July 11, 2023, meeting minutes unanimously.



ETHICS UPDATE ON THE SUNSHINE ACT

Gregory Miller provided an overview of how the Sunshine Act relates to federal advisory committees and, more specifically, to TLTF.

PRESENTATION

	Presenter	Potential Consumer Risks Posed by Truck Lease-Purchase Agreement
1	Emma Oppenheim, Senior Fellow, Workers Initiative, CFPB	Potential Consumer Risks Posed by Truck Lease-Purchase Agreement

Emma Oppenheim, Senior Fellow, Workers Initiative, CFPB, discussed her organization's experience with and initiatives addressing truck lease-purchase abuses in the industry. Employer-driven debt is a major risk to drivers, occurring when a worker is indebted to their employer for initial, required, costs such as training and equipment. Workers are often unaware of the specifics of such debts when they enter into these agreements. As their ability to repay the debt is linked to their employment the employer controls the circumstances. Workers can become trapped in their work and indebted to employers who abuse their position of power and control.

Task Statement 23-2: Common Truck Leasing Agreements to Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) Drivers and the Existence of Inequitable Leasing Agreements and Terms in the Motor Carrier Industry

TLTF deliberated on Task 23-2, requesting recommendations to the Agency regarding inequitable leasing agreements and terms in the motor carrier industry.

Discussion Points

- Vulnerabilities for drivers entering lease agreements include being a non-native English speaker, lack of technical expertise, and financial resources for adequate review of the lease.
- Standardize language in disclosures to promote equitable conditions within lease agreements.
- Provided recommendations on standardizing language in lease-to-purchase agreements and additional actions by both carriers and drivers to deter predatory practices.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Minor and Ms. Watson thanked TLTF for their contributions and provided information for future meetings.

//Signed//

Steve Rush, Chair

//Signed//

Larry Minor, DFO