The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2009 (P.L. 111-8, division I), directs the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) to submit semiannual reports on the Agency’s ability to meet its requirement to conduct compliance reviews (CR) on high-risk motor carriers (SafeStat category A and B). This letter report fulfills that directive for the 3rd and 4th quarters of Fiscal Year (FY) 2009.

During the 3rd quarter of FY 2009 from April 1 to June 30, 2009, 2,729 carriers met the definition of high-risk carriers. The FMCSA completed CRs on 2,342, or 86 percent, of these high-risk carriers. During the 4th quarter of FY 2009 from July 1 to September 30, 2009, 2,577 carriers met the definition of high-risk carriers. The FMCSA completed CRs on 2,262, or 88 percent, of these high-risk carriers. Therefore, for the 3rd and 4th quarters of FY 2009, FMCSA completed CRs on 4,604, or 87 percent, of the 5,306 high-risk carriers.

Consistent with congressional mandates, FMCSA has improved the identification of high-risk carriers and increased the number of CRs conducted on these and other carriers. This is evidenced by the 106 percent increase in CRs conducted on high-risk carriers during the 3rd quarter and the 99 percent increase during the 4th quarter of FY 2009. These numbers represent substantial increases over the 1,136 CRs conducted during the 6-month period cited in the Government Accountability Office’s (GAO) report “Motor Carrier Safety: Federal Safety Agency Identifies Many High-Risk Carriers But Does Not Assess Maximum Fines as Often as Required by Law” (GAO-07-584, August 2007). In addition, FMCSA has reduced the backlog of 1,084 carriers cited in the GAO report to 315 carriers at the end of September 2009. The FMCSA will continue reducing the backlog during FY 2010.
A similar letter has been sent to the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Appropriations and to the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the Senate Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, the House Committee on Appropriations, and the House Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies.

Sincerely,

Anne S. Ferro
The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510  

Dear Senator Cochran:

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Sincerely,

Anne S. Ferro
The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing  
and Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC  20510  

Dear Madam Chairman:  

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Sincerely,

Anne S. Ferro
The Honorable Christopher Bond  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing  
and Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC  20510

Dear Senator Bond:

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[Signature]

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Sincerely,

Anne S. Ferro
The Honorable Jerry Lewis  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC  20515

Dear Congressman Lewis:

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Sincerely,

Anne S. Ferro
The Honorable Tom Latham  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing  
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Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

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