



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Motor Carrier  
Safety Administration**

**Deputy Administrator**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

March 5, 2018

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cochran:

Pursuant to Senate Report 114-243 accompanying Senate Bill 2844 and the Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (P.L. 115-31), this letter report provides information on the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) ability to meet its requirement to evaluate mandatory carriers in Fiscal Year (FY) 2016.

To support this effort, in FY 2015, Congress provided FMCSA with additional funding for the development of a new mandatory carrier algorithm designed to identify different levels of risk based on evidence of non-compliance. The three different levels include high risk, moderate risk, and at risk. Through a Federal Register notice published March 7, 2016 (81 FR 11875), FMCSA redefined mandatory carriers as those carriers meeting the new high risk definition.

The FMCSA implemented the new prioritization algorithm in January 2016. When the new algorithm was first run, it identified 967 high risk carriers. During the remainder of FY 2016, the algorithm identified an additional 1,346 carriers for investigations. This was a significant reduction from the Agency's previous algorithm that identified 5,932 carriers in FY 2015. However, the new algorithm focuses on the most non-compliant carriers. Out of the total of 2,313 carriers identified, 380 of these carriers went out of business or were determined to be operating only in intrastate operations, which is outside of FMCSA's jurisdiction. Of the remaining 1,933 carriers identified, investigations were completed on 1,691 of the carriers in FY 2016.

The new prioritization algorithm allowed FMCSA to investigate these carriers more quickly. For the investigations conducted in the last three quarters of FY 2016 using the new prioritization algorithm, 97.7 percent were completed in 90 days or less, with the average time to completion being approximately 36 days. This is a significant improvement from FY 2015, when only 81 percent were completed within 12 months. Generally, after implementation of the new algorithm, if carriers were not investigated within 90 days, it was because they denied the Agency access or otherwise attempted to avoid compliance, and FMCSA took appropriate enforcement action.

The FMCSA utilized this new algorithm to identify those carriers with the highest crash risk and worked to significantly reduce the time to investigate. The new prioritization algorithm also identifies moderate risk and at risk carriers. Using the tools developed with the \$1.2 million provided in the FY 2015 Appropriations Act for a modification of the system, the Agency also identified other carriers, on a monthly basis, that were monitored for poor safety and compliance trends using the new tools to determine when additional investigations should be conducted. By using the available data and observing trends, the new prioritization algorithm greatly improved FMCSA's ability to manage this carrier population.

A similar letter has been sent to the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Appropriations; the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies; the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Appropriations; and the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Gautreaux". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a long, sweeping underline.

Cathy F. Gautreaux



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Motor Carrier  
Safety Administration**

**Deputy Administrator**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

March 5, 2018

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Leahy:

Pursuant to Senate Report 114-243 accompanying Senate Bill 2844 and the Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (P.L. 115-31), this letter report provides information on the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) ability to meet its requirement to evaluate mandatory carriers in Fiscal Year (FY) 2016.

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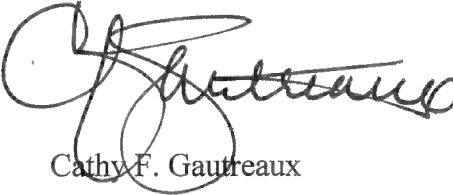
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Sincerely,



Cathy F. Gautreaux



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Motor Carrier  
Safety Administration**

**Deputy Administrator**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

March 5, 2018

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and  
Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Collins:

Pursuant to Senate Report 114-243 accompanying Senate Bill 2844 and the Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (P.L. 115-31), this letter report provides information on the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) ability to meet its requirement to evaluate mandatory carriers in Fiscal Year (FY) 2016.

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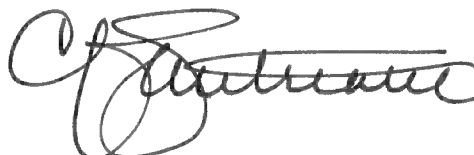
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Sincerely,

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Cathy F. Gautreaux



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Motor Carrier  
Safety Administration**

**Deputy Administrator**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

March 5, 2018

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and  
Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Reed:

Pursuant to Senate Report 114-243 accompanying Senate Bill 2844 and the Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (P.L. 115-31), this letter report provides information on the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) ability to meet its requirement to evaluate mandatory carriers in Fiscal Year (FY) 2016.

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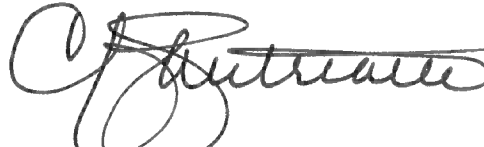
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Cathy F. Gautreaux





U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Motor Carrier  
Safety Administration**

**Deputy Administrator**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

March 5, 2018

The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Pursuant to Senate Report 114-243 accompanying Senate Bill 2844 and the Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (P.L. 115-31), this letter report provides information on the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) ability to meet its requirement to evaluate mandatory carriers in Fiscal Year (FY) 2016.

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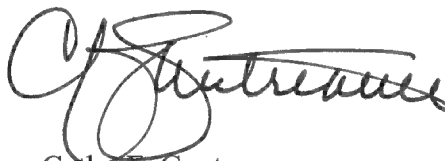
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Cathy F. Gautreaux



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Motor Carrier  
Safety Administration**

**Deputy Administrator**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

March 5, 2018

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Lowey:

Pursuant to Senate Report 114-243 accompanying Senate Bill 2844 and the Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (P.L. 115-31), this letter report provides information on the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) ability to meet its requirement to evaluate mandatory carriers in Fiscal Year (FY) 2016.

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Sincerely,

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Cathy F. Gautreaux



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Motor Carrier  
Safety Administration**

**Deputy Administrator**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

March 5, 2018

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and  
Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Diaz-Balart:

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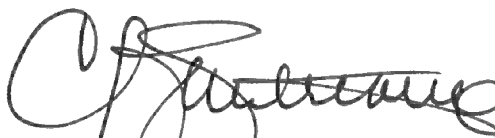
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Cathy F. Gautreaux



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Motor Carrier  
Safety Administration**

**Deputy Administrator**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

March 5, 2018

The Honorable David Price  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and  
Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Price:

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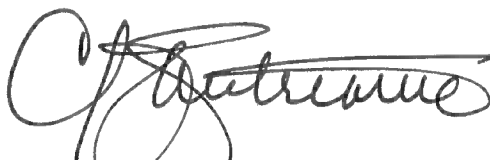
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