



## NATIONAL WOODEN PALLET & CONTAINER ASSOCIATION

October 20, 2015

Chairman Bill Shuster  
House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
2251 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Minority Member Peter DeFazio  
House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
2164 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Request to increase length of twin trailers from 28' to 33'

The National Wooden Pallet & Container Association (NWPCA) endorses Congress' safely updating the U.S.'s transportation policy by approving a slight increase of five feet for twin trailers, from 28- to 33-feet. Wood pallets are responsible for the safe movement of the majority of goods that transit this nation, and we support expansion of safe, environmentally efficient modes of transportation.

The Senate and House passed language earlier this year in their respective appropriations bills. The language would not alter the current 80,000-pound weight limit, nor would it impact axle or bridge formula weight limits. Since stopping distance is a function of weight, rather than length, stopping distances would not be adversely affected. Additionally, academic and real-world research has shown that twin 33-foot trailers are inherently more stable than 28s because of their longer wheelbase.

NWPCA supports extending the length of trailers from 28' to 33' as it would enable our members to carry more wooden pallets with fewer trips – thus saving fuel and partially addressing the shortage of drivers. We also note that if the language passes, those using 28' length trailers would not be mandated to lengthen their trailers to 33', it would be an option.

At any given time there are two billion pallets in use in the United States and, of goods shipped on a pallet, more than 93% are on a wooden pallet. We as a country need to continue our focus on sustainability. Its simple math that more cubic feet on a trailer reduces truck trips, which in turn reduces the number of trucks on the road. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brent J. McClendon  
President / CEO  
National Wooden Pallet & Container Association