



ABA News

Press Release from the American Bakers Association



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ABA Applauds Senate for Passing Department of Transportation (DOT) Technical Corrections Bill (H.R. 1195)

On April 17, 2008, the U.S. Senate voted 88-2 to pass H.R. 1195, the Department of Transportation Technical Corrections Bill. Passage of this bill brings ABA member companies one step closer to a frame work allowing companies to move forward with the unintended legislative consequence from the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) (Public Law 109-59).

“This legislation is a good-faith effort by Congress to provide limited liability protection to companies that did not realize SAFETEA-LU had altered the overtime exemption portion of the Fair Labor Standards Act,” ABA President and CEO Robb MacKie said. “However, we call on Congress to fully restore the motor carrier exemption and shut the door to frivolous class action lawsuits.”

Specifically, SAFETEA-LU removed the overtime exemption for commercial truck drivers that drive trucks weighing less than 10,000 lbs gross vehicle weight (GVW.) This bill reaches a compromise, allowing companies a one year window from the enactment of SAFETEA-LU (August 10, 2005 to August 10, 2006) to put in place the necessary procedures for meeting this new law without being open to liability. However, if employers knew about the change in SAFETEA-LU during that one-year moratorium that individual company’s liability protection is removed.

This bill is a modest first step toward correcting this problem. However, H.R. 1195 does provide limited liability protection for employers while at the same time providing a framework for companies going into the future. ABA continues to urge the House of Representatives to quickly pass the new version of this bill, and urges the President to sign the DOT Technical Corrections Bill into law.

About the American Bakers Association:

ABA is the Washington D.C.-based trade association that has been the voice of the wholesale baking industry since 1897. ABA has a long and dedicated history of representing the interests of the wholesale baking industry before the U.S. Congress, federal agencies, state legislatures and international regulatory authorities. ABA represents approximately 80 percent of the wholesale bakeries in the U.S. and their suppliers.