

Heavier Trucks: Bad for Georgia's Local Communities

Dear Members of the Georgia General Assembly,

On behalf of local elected officials, law enforcement and first responders throughout the State of Georgia, we are writing to ask you to oppose any increases in the maximum allowable weight of trucks on our roads.

Over the years, proponents of heavier trucks have tried to pass weight increases in the state legislature. Last year the debate was about raising the maximum weight for log trucks to as much as 100,000 pounds. These efforts have constantly been rejected, and for good reason – there are serious safety and infrastructure implications when allowing higher truck weights. According to data from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, there were 5,856 crashes involving commercial trucks in Georgia in 2021, an increase of more than 14% from the previous year. Unfortunately, these crashes resulted in 217 fatalities and 2,739 injuries throughout the state. Heavier truck weights would only make Georgia's road more dangerous.

Another issue is increased damage to our local infrastructure. The USDOT found in its 2016 study that thousands of interstate and other National Highway System bridges could not accommodate heavier trucks. State and local bridges are not built to the same standards and would be even more negatively affected. Of the 15,034 bridges in Georgia, there are 3,795 bridges that are in fair/poor condition – that is over 25 percent of bridges statewide.

It is our state and local roads that connect Georgians to their jobs, schools, and places of leisure. Our local roads and bridges are often older and not built to the same standards as those on the interstates or national highway system roads. Many of us are unable to keep up with our current maintenance and replacement schedules due to budget constraints and runaway costs. We do not have the resources to cover the costs of increased infrastructure damage that would be caused by heavier trucks.

On behalf of Georgia's local communities and our residents, we ask that you oppose any legislation that would raise truck weights on our roads and bridges.

Sincerely,

Jesse Houle
Commissioner
Athens-Clarke County

Carol Myers
Commissioner
Athens-Clarke County

Kelly Girtz
Mayor
Athens-Clarke County

Byron Amos
Councilmember
Atlanta

Dustin Hillis
Councilmember
Atlanta

Liliana Bakhtiari
Councilmember
Atlanta

Chris Hodge
Chief of Police
Auburn

Janet Jones
Mayor
Bogart

Anthony Simmons
Commissioner
Bulloch County

Curt Deal
Commissioner
Bulloch County

Jappy Stringer
Commissioner
Bulloch County

Ray Mosley
Commissioner
Bulloch County

Roy Thompson
Chairman
Bulloch County

Timmy Rushing
Commissioner
Bulloch County

Toby Conner
Commissioner
Bulloch County

Danny Yates
Maintenance Coordinator
Carroll County

Steve Fuller
Commissioner
Carroll County

Matt Santini
Mayor
Cartersville

John Harley
Mayor
Centerville

Michael Evans
Councilmember
Centerville

Aaron Whitely
Commissioner
Chatham County

Tanya Milton
Commissioner
Chatham County

Ruby Foster
Councilmember
Chattahoochee Hills

Tom Reed
Mayor
Chattahoochee Hills

Sharis McCrary
Chief of Police
College Park

Toyia Tucker
Councilmember
Columbus City

Robert Goff
Commissioner
Dade County

Lorraine Cochran-Johnson
Commissioner
DeKalb County

Ted Terry
Commissioner
DeKalb County

Allison Watters
Commissioner
Floyd County

Michael Skeen
Public Works Director
Floyd County

Wright Bagby
Chairman
Floyd County

Kerry Hill
Commissioner
Forsyth County

Craig Crawford
Councilmember
Fort Oglethorpe

Derek Rogers
Mayor Pro-Tem
Fort Oglethorpe

Earl Gray
Mayor
Fort Oglethorpe

Jim Childs
Councilmember
Fort Oglethorpe

Paula Stinnett
Councilmember
Fort Oglethorpe

Rhonda James
Councilmember
Fort Oglethorpe

Bob Ellis
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Fulton County

Charlie Paris
Chairman
Gilmer County

Lori Boyen
Commissioner
Glascocock County

Micah King
Councilmember
Glennville

Ronnie Ridley
Commissioner
Haralson County

Roxanne Whitaker
Mayor
Harlem

Lee Boone
Chairman
Heard County

Carlotta Harrell
Chairwoman
Henry County

Don Jernigan
Commissioner
Jasper County

Tim Cockfield
Councilmember
Jesup

Bill Coleman
Public Works Director
Kingsland

Ronald Dodson
Mayor
Lake City

Charles Glass
Commissioner
Lamar County

Nancy Thrash
Commissioner
Lamar County

Ronnie Boggs
Councilmember
Lexington

Vanneriah Wynn
Councilmember
Lithonia

Melanie Long
Councilmember
Loganville

Eric Joyce
Councilmember
Madison

Todd Higdon
Chairman
Madison County

Roger Lotson
Commissioner
McIntosh County

George Emami
Commissioner
Monroe County

Aaron Higgins
Councilmember
Pooler

Karen Williams
Councilmember
Pooler

Rufus Bright
Councilmember
Port Wentworth

Henry Lust
Mayor Pro-Tem
Powder Springs

Billy Webster
Chairman
Putnam County

Nick Palumbo
Councilmember
Savannah

Mike Kile
Sheriff
Screven County

Blue Cole
Mayor
Sharpsburg

Barbara Bender
Mayor
Snellville

James Dutton
Commissioner
Spalding County

Allen Haywood
Mayor
Sparta

Ira Underwood
Chief of Police
Statham

John Piper
Mayor
Statham

Scott Penn
Councilmember
Statham

Cass Mooney
Chief of Police
Suwanee

Jimmy Burnette
Mayor
Suwanee

Brett Jones
Mayor
Tallapoosa

Patrick Clarey
Planning Coordinator
Tallapoosa

Philip Eidson
City Manager
Tallapoosa

Bill Kicklighter
Commissioner
Tattall County

Kyle McGee
Public Works Director
Thomaston

Jay Flowers
Mayor
Thomasville

Kenneth Usry
Mayor
Thomson

Donnie Hester
Commissioner
Tift County

Fred Rigdon
Commissioner
Tift County

Greg Wood
Commissioner
Tift County

Melissa Hughes
Commissioner
Tift County

Paul Webb
Commissioner
Tift County

Stan Stalnaker
Commissioner
Tift County

Tony McBrayer
Chairman
Tift County

Julie Smith
Mayor
Tifton

Michael Strickland
Fire Chief
Troup County

Benjamin Watson
Commissioner
Upson County

James Ellington
Commissioner
Upson County

Jason Tinsley
County Manager
Upson County

Lorenzo Wilder
Commissioner
Upson County

Norman Allen
Chairman
Upson County

Paul Jones
Commissioner
Upson County

Sandra Thornton
Councilmember
West Point

Clifford Slaton
Commissioner
Wilkes County

Bruce Johnson
Councilmember
Winterville

Timothy Pierce-Tomlin
Councilmember
Winterville