



## NEW JERSEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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ENVIRONMENT AND  
SOLID WASTE  
COMMISSIONS:  
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FIRE SAFETY COMMISSION

### VIA TELECOPIER AND FIRST CLASS MAIL

August 16, 2017

Hon. Elaine L. Chao, Secretary  
**US Department of Transportation**  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

### RE: Sleep Apnea Screenings

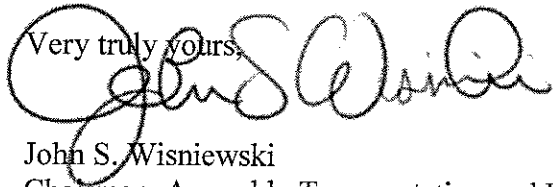
Dear Secretary Chao:

As Chairman of the New Jersey Assembly Transportation and Independent Authorities Committee, I am writing to you to express my opposition to the federal government's decision to withdraw the proposed plan that would require sleep apnea screening for truck drivers and train engineers. By eliminating this proposed rule, under the pretext of decreasing regulatory burdens, our nation's roadways and rail systems will be less safe.

Sleep apnea has been the probable cause for fatal rail crashes in New Jersey, New York City and several highway crashes. Sleep apnea is especially harmful in the transportation industry as individuals are operating heavy machinery. The National Transportation Safety Board has reported that sleep apnea was the probable cause of 10 highway and rail accidents in the past 17 years and is an issue in ongoing investigations.

I strongly urge the Administration to reverse its decision and return to the proposed rule-making process to ensure public safety on highway and rail systems. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

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Secretary Chao  
August 16, 2017

Very truly yours,  


John S. Wisniewski  
Chairman, Assembly Transportation and Independent Authorities Committee

CC: Hon. Robert Menendez  
Hon. Cory Booker  
Hon. Donald Norcross  
Hon. Frank LoBiondo  
Hon. Tom MacArthur  
Hon. Chris Smith  
Hon. Josh Gottheimer  
Hon. Frank Pallone, Jr.  
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