



Parents Against Tired Truckers and Citizens for Reliable and Safe Highways

For Immediate Release

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VDOT Proposal Would Leave Truckers With Few Options.

Statement from the Truck Safety Coalition and Parents Against Tired Truckers on Potential Rest Stop Closures in Virginia.

ARLINGTON, VA – In a series of public meetings that began last week, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is reviewing a plan to close 25 of 41 rest areas in the state. This proposal would shut over half of the available truck parking spaces – 412 out of the 770 now open.

“On October 10, 1993, my life was forever changed when a truck driver fell asleep at the wheel of his 80,000 pound rig, killing four innocent teenagers. One of them was my son Jeff. He and four of his friends were on their way to a hayride and had just pulled into the breakdown lane on the Maine Turnpike when a Wal-Mart truck driver fell asleep at the wheel of his big rig and crashed into my son and his friends. As a result of this horrific, preventable crash, four beautiful teenagers: Jeff – age 17, Angie - age 16, Dawn Marie - age 15, and Katie - age 14 were killed. One friend, Linda, survived but was seriously injured and she is mentally scarred for life. Five families suffered incomparable personal loss as a result of a single tired trucker,” explained Daphne Izer, P.A.T.T founder and board member. “By closing these rest areas we are making it more difficult for truck drivers to find safe places to get the rest they need to keep themselves and others on our highways safe.”

John Lannen, executive director for the Truck Safety Coalition and P.A.T.T, continued, “our hope is that VDOT, after hearing public opinion, realizes the small amount of money saved wouldn’t be worth the lives that could be lost by taking away options for truck drivers to get their mandatory rest on the road.”

The Truck Safety Coalition is a partnership between The Citizens for Reliable and Safe Highways (CRASH) Foundation, and Parents Against Tired Truckers (P.A.T.T). The Truck Safety Coalition is dedicated to reducing the number of deaths and injuries caused by truck-related crashes, providing compassionate support to truck crash survivors and families of truck crash victims, and educating the public, policy-makers and media about truck safety issues.

P.A.T.T. was formed when a truck driver fell asleep at the wheel of his 80,000 pound rig, killing four innocent teenagers. There were no criminal charges (not even a traffic ticket) brought against this truck driver or the trucking company for their deaths. Thus, P.A.T.T. was formed in May of 1994. They have grown from a Maine grassroots group to a nationally recognized organization. P.A.T.T has been successful in bringing the fatigue issue to the forefront throughout the United States. They are not anti-trucker. In fact, many truck drivers are applauding them for addressing issues that they themselves cannot for fear of losing their jobs.

For more information on P.A.T.T or the Truck Safety Coalition, visit <http://www.trucksafety.org>.

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