



Forging a partnership between farmers and consumers
• Working together for Ohio's farmers •

November 23, 2011

Robert Marvin
Director, Transportation Department
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Sent via: 614-466-2753

Dear Director Marvin,

As we near the end of November, it appears extremely likely that Ohio's crop harvest will extend into the month of December. Unlike most businesses, agriculture must depend on good weather to get the job done, and deal with the delays that bad weather brings. This crop year has seen an unusually wet spring which delayed planting, followed by an uncharacteristically wet fall that has postponed the normal harvest. As you know, private motor carriers which engage in the hauling of farm supplies to the farm or farm products from farm to market are exempt from hours of service limitations during the state's designated planting and harvesting season. The state designated season, limited to March 1 through November 30 of each year, will unfortunately not be representative of the extended harvest season this year or adequately cover the need to get crops into markets in a timely manner.

Due to these unforeseen circumstances, Ohio Farm Bureau Federation requests that an extension of this exemption be made for agricultural operations until we can be sure that harvest is complete. Without this essential exemption, drivers will be limited to working only 60 hours per week and only 12 hours per day. The agricultural industry has weathered an extremely stressful crop year already, and without extension of the hours of service exemption will incur more costs, concerns and stress. Having the peace of mind that drivers are able to haul crops to market when they are ready will relieve Ohio's farmers of one concern in this worrisome crop year.

We greatly appreciate your consideration of this request. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this request, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

John C. Fisher
Executive Vice President

cpy: Ohio Farm Bureau Board and Cabinet