

County of Lassen
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



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County Administration Office
221 S. Roop Street, Suite 4
Susanville, CA 96130
Phone: 530-251-8333
Fax: 530-251-2663

January 18, 2022

Honorable Megan Dahle
Assemblymember, 1st District
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0000

Honorable Brian Dahle
Senator, 1st District
1021 O Street, Room 7230
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: U.S. Highway 395

Dear Assemblymember Dahle and Senator Dahle:

On behalf of the Lassen County Board of Supervisors, I write to request that the state include, in this legislative session, a bill to address safety issues from the state's policy of differential speed limits for heavy-trucks (i.e. 3 axles or more) and different speed limits for passenger vehicles.

We believe the state should authorize Caltrans to solve this safety issue by allowing a universal speed limit of at least 65 miles per hour on portions of U.S. highway 395, and especially in circumstances where passing lanes are not available. If the legislature is not interested in a permanent solution, then please consider asking the legislature to authorize Caltrans to implement a pilot project of having a universal speed limit of 65 miles per hour for both heavy trucks and passenger vehicles along the section of U.S. highway 395 from Hallelujah Junction to the State Route 36 junction in Lassen County. Perhaps other areas of the state could also benefit from such authorization, in addition to the Governor's executive order to address congestion at California's ports.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Chris Gallagher, Chairman
Lassen County Board of Supervisors

CC: Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)

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January 26, 2021

Dave Moore
Caltrans District 2 Director
1657 Riverside Drive
Redding, CA 96001

RE: US 395 Speed Limit

Dear Mr. Moore:

On behalf of the Lassen County Board of Supervisors, I write to urge Caltrans to support any legislative or regulatory changes to adopt a universal speed limit of 65 miles per hour for both heavy trucks (i.e. 3 axles or more) and passenger vehicles along the section of US highway 395 from Hallelujah Junction to the State Route 36 junction in Lassen County.

Along this section of highway, the State of California restricts the maximum speed of heavy trucks to 55 miles per hour and 65 miles per hour for passenger vehicles. This differential speed limit is resulting in traffic backups behind heavy trucks, increasing demand for passing toward oncoming traffic, and consequently drivers dangerously violating passing laws.

The Lassen County Transportation Commission recently received a presentation titled Safety Evaluation of Current Conditions and Future Expansion of that segment US highway 395 in Lassen County by Sacramento State University. This report provided historical and current traffic volume data, heavy vehicle data, and crash data.

As you will certainly recall in 2017, Caltrans District 2 issued a Transportation Concept Report for this section of highway. Subsequently on March 27, 2020, Caltrans' Division of Research, Innovation and System Information published a report titled Differential

Truck Speed Limit on Rural Two-Lane Highways: Survey of Practice. Both documents report the community's concern about the negative impact and safety issues resulting from the State of California's policy of differential speed limits for trucks vs passenger vehicles.

The Lassen County Board of Supervisors opposes having differential speed limits in Lassen County. California has the lowest maximum speed limit for heavy trucks 55 mph, while neighboring states of Oregon, Nevada, and Arizona have maximum speed limits of 65 mph, 80 mph, and 75 mph, respectfully.

The Board supports any legislative or regulatory effort that Caltrans' District 2 can initiate toward implementing an interim or permanent universal speed limit of at least 65 mph along this section of roadway.

Please give us regular updates of Caltrans' progress being made towards solving this important and urgent matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Aaron Albaugh".

AARON ALBAUGH, Chairman