



## **NAFTA:**

The California Trucking Association (CTA) supports the principles embodied in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and its importance to California cross border trade. NAFTA was designed to be the vehicle that would allow the Americas to compete with other nations and other emerging trade blocs throughout the world.

## **At Issue:**

A one-year pilot program, announced February 23, 2007 by the US Department of Transportation, to allow 100 Mexican trucking companies unrestricted access to U.S. highways. American trucks would not be granted access to Mexican highways for approximately six to eight months, while the Mexican government gathers information and determines which American companies will be granted access to Mexico.

## **CTA Concerns:**

- Any opening of the border to Mexican trucking companies must provide comparable opportunities for California-based trucking companies wishing to operate with the other NAFTA countries.
- There are specific laws forbidding international trucks operating under NAFTA to haul intrastate cargo. The intrastate provisions need to be enforced on these carriers uniformly.
- Mexican domiciled carriers will not be required to comply with Federal and State requirements regarding employee medical and job termination protection for their drivers, as well as workers compensation.
- Mexican domiciled carriers will not have to comply with CARB private fleet rule provisions set to be released within the next year.
- Mexican trucking companies will not have to comply with ultra low sulfur fuel requirements.
- Mexican trucking companies will not have to comply with many state and federal regulations that place California trucking companies at a distinct economic disadvantage.

## **What does CTA want?**

The California Trucking Association stands ready to assist in the development of solutions to these issues so that all trucking companies can compete on a fair and equitable basis regardless of the country in which the company is domiciled.

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