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HAYWARD, CA 94544
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Christina Ramanino

09-10-8

Good morning,

My name is Christina Ramorino, and I am third generation owner of Roadstar Trucking based in Hayward, Ca. We provide service throughout Northern California, delivering various products ranging from pharmaceuticals, steel and plumbing materials, food stuffs, clothing, military supplies, and packaging materials, just to name a few.

We employ 50 Californians with full time jobs, health benefits, and a 401K plan. Since 2007, we have had to reduce our number of drivers by 19%, and we have also been forced to cut our administrative staff by 33%, including two of our highest paid, senior staff employees – ALL DUE SOLELY TO THE ECONOMY.

A year ago when this Board passed this regulation, I was in the middle of reading Thomas Friedman's book *Hot, Flat, and Crowded*, which I'm sure many of you are familiar with. I understand and agree with the need and value to cleaning up our air and switching to cleaner technologies, however I strongly disagree with the stringent timeline set forth by the staff that this Board approved last year. Friedman's book stresses the need for our nation to go green and clean our environment, but he strongly emphasizes the need to have a proper balance among governmental regulations and the businesses and parties that are affected. He would be gravely disappointed that this Board did not listen to the plights of local business and the dire effects the current economy is having on them.

With a depressed economy and people not purchasing goods the way they historically have done, freight volumes have greatly decreased, causing freight rates to tumble downwards as well. Throughout the two day Board meeting last year, we were continually told that there is plenty of funding available to aid us in these mandatory purchases of new equipment, and

staff also presented the idea that we can pass the costs of these purchases along to our customers. With everyone hurting for business, trucking companies are forced to cut their rates just to keep customers and to put any sort of freight into their trucks. **There is no way at this time that any shipper would agree to higher freight rates to assist us in our purchases of retrofits or new trucks.**

On behalf of CTA and my family business, I ask for this Board to strongly consider the current state of the economy, the inability to get funding that was promised to us, and the devastating effects this regulation will have on the state and local businesses and delay this regulation one year. I urge the Board to seriously consider all the testimony here today and focus on finding a fair and proper balance among all interested parties.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christina Ramorino".

Christina Ramorino