

# NATIONAL PRIVATE TRUCK COUNCIL

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## Letter of Introduction

### **“ANALYSIS OF POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF LARGER TRUCKS FOR U.S. BUSINESSES OPERATING PRIVATE FLEETS”**

Dear NPTC Members:

For more than a decade, NPTC has supported modification of federal truck size and weight restrictions in a manner that will improve shipper and carrier productivity without jeopardizing highway safety. While there has been ample anecdotal evidence in the private fleet community that larger trucks would mean greater productivity for the businesses operating them, there has not been until now a study that helps make the case for changes in the law based on an independent research analysis of a sample group of companies.

The University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute (UMTRI) was commissioned by NPTC to conduct research in an effort to quantify the benefits of productivity enhancements for a representative handful of companies that operate private truck fleets, in their capacities as both shippers and carriers. The final report, “Analysis of the Potential Benefits of Larger Trucks for U.S. Businesses Operating Private Fleets,” is attached.

While conclusions reached by this study must be qualified due to the small sample of companies, and caveats about generalized extrapolations are underscored as well, the results nonetheless speak for themselves and, to our mind, are persuasive.

With diesel fuel costs reaching record levels in the past year, and Congress and the Administration struggling with policy decisions on how to reduce highway congestion and engine emissions, there is a critical need now—and a window of opportunity—to demonstrate the possibilities offered by changes in the national truck size and weight limit.

NPTC believes that this study contributes credible and reliable data to the debate and helps support the case to finally increase U.S. federal truck size and weight at a level already reached by many leading industrial countries of the world.

