

Houston City Council Member At-Large, Position 5

May 8, 2024

The Honorable Ted Cruz United States Senate 167 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cruz,

I ask you to oppose the increased truck weight legislation, specifically HR 3372 and HR 7496. I believe these proposals would have negative consequences for our community and the infrastructure we rely upon.

We have numerous interstates running throughout our city and Houston is an important port city for freight moving in and out of the country. The high amount of truck traffic and current safety issues make me concerned about the safety implications for our residents if truck weights are raised higher.

HR 3372 and HR 7496 would increase weights on the interstates, however, that does not mean when the truck exits the interstate they will unload 11,000 pounds to match the state weight limits. In actuality, these bills would force heavier trucks onto local and state roads, as they make deliveries or accomplish their "last mile" of travel.

Allowing heavier trucks on our roadways would compromise the safety of our residents. Larger trucks, with their increased weight, require longer stopping distances, and are 47-400% more prone to crashes, according to the United States Department of Transportation. Heavier and larger trucks will make this situation even more problematic.

Considering these concerns, I urge you to oppose any proposals that seek to increase truck weights.

Sincerely,

Sallie Alcorn

Sallie Olm