



National Bison Association

8690 Wolff Court, Suite 200 Westminster, CO 80031-3646
www.BisonCentral.com Phone: 303-292-2833 Fax: 303-845-9081

Bison Issues Overview, September 2019

Electronic Logging Device Impact on Bison Haulers

The National Bison Association joins with other livestock and farm organizations in expressing concern over the Hours of Service regulations for commercial livestock haulers. Balancing safety and animal welfare are concerns for all livestock haulers.

Haulers of live bison face additional challenges for at least three reasons:

- Because of the size of the North American bison business, there are relatively few commercial processing facilities throughout the United States and Canada; and
- Because of the undomesticated nature of bison, unloading the animals in transit is stressful on bison, and is often unfeasible.
- The undomesticated nature of the animal makes the loading time very unpredictable.

We submitted formal comments under the Announcement of Advance Notice for Proposed Rulemaking. Those comments emphasized that rigid enforcement of the 14-hour driving window, with mandatory 10 hours off duty, is not workable for livestock haulers and could result in seriously compromising animal welfare while creating negligible safety improvements.

The National Bison Association supports these legislative efforts to address this issue: :

Senate:

We support the Transporting Livestock Across American Safely Act, which was introduced by Sens. Ben Sasse (R-NE) and John Tester (D-MO).

That bill has the following provisions:

- Provides that HOS and ELD requirements are inapplicable until after a driver travels more than 300-air miles from their source. Drive time for HOS does not start until after 300-air mile threshold.
- Exempts loading and unloading times from the HOS calculation of driving time.
- Extends the HOS on-duty time maximum hour requirement from 11 hours to a minimum of 15 hours and a maximum of 18 hours of on-duty time.
- Grants flexibility for drivers to rest at any point during their trip without counting against HOS time.
- Allows drivers to complete their trip – regardless of HOS requirements – if they come within 150-air miles of their delivery point.
- Ensures that, after the driver completes their delivery and the truck is unloaded, the driver will take a break for a period that is 5 hours less than the maximum on-duty time (10 hours if a 15-hour drive time).

House:

The NBA supports H.R. 1698 (Agricultural Business Electronic Logging Device Exemption Act of 2019), which was introduced by Reps. Collin Peterson (D-MN) and Greg Gianforte (R-MT), which would exempt agricultural businesses from the rule.