

# Appeals court rejects Teamsters case vs Mexican trucks in U.S.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (PAI) — The Teamsters is considering its next move in the union's long battle to keep unsafe Mexican trucks off U.S. roads, after the U.S. Court of Appeals for Washington, D.C., on July 26 dismissed their case against the vehicles.

On a 3-0 vote, the court rejected the union's six complaints against the federal pilot program allowing Mexican trucks to travel all U.S. roads.

"The Teamsters will consider their legal options and continue to monitor the progress of the cross-border trucking program," the union said after the judges ruled.

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration runs the program, set up to see whether Mexican trucks could meet U.S. requirements and thus roam nationwide, as mandated by the North American Free Trade Agreement between the United States, Mexico, and Canada.

"The Teamsters question whether there are enough carriers in the pilot program to reach a reliable conclusion about the likely impact of Mexican trucks on U.S. highway safety. FMCSA estimated it needed at least 46 carriers to be inspected 4,100 times within three years to provide a statisti-

cally valid analysis. ... With a little over a year to go, the three-year pilot program now has only 12 carriers with 44 trucks," and there have been only 52 inspections, the union said.

Thirteen trucking firms have been thrown out of the program.

"This argument fails because an unlimited number of trucking companies may participate," the judges replied. "Whether Mexico-domiciled trucking companies ultimately avail themselves of the opportunity is outside the agency's control. The agency has, therefore, met its obligation to include a sufficient number of participants to yield valid results."

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