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June 23, 2008

Hon. Jim Bradley, MPP
Minister of Transportation
3rd Floor, Ferguson Block
77 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1Z8

Dear Minister:

I am writing to you as the second-generation owner of one of Canada's oldest and most successful freight management businesses. Every day we see the impact of rising fuel costs on North America's trucking fleets. Large freight companies are scaling back and thousands of individual trucking operations are parking their trucks and/or declaring bankruptcy.

A significant constriction in our society's transportation capability affects the entire supply chain. Cost-effective just-in-time delivery is seriously jeopardized.

Minister, you and your government are in a critical position to improve this situation. Truck transportation is so critical to the Canadian and entire North America economy that it is appropriate to reduce license costs and remove all taxes – provincial as well as federal – on diesel fuel used for transport. Serious attention must be given to reduce other forms of taxation on trucking, as well.

Some will say that such a reduction reduces the ability of governments to keep the roads in good repair. But you and I both know that there is no correlation between the so-called 'road taxes' on gasoline and diesel – which goes into general revenues – and the amount that is spent by the government on highways.

It seems illogical and unacceptable to me, and I am sure to my colleagues in the trucking industry, that the provincial government should enjoy substantial tax revenue surpluses as fuel and diesel costs escalate when the trucking industry is literally being driven to operate on margins thinner than a well worn tire tread.

One final comment, Minister. As truckers are driven closer to the edge of financial insolvency, maintenance may suffer with consequent increased liability for public safety.

You have the power in your hands to improve this situation.

Yours truly,

Melissa Gracey
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