

MEMORANDUM

Celinda C. Lake
President

To: Interested Parties

Alysia R. Snell
Partner

Fr: Celinda Lake, Joshua Ulibarri, and Christopher Panetta

Michael J. Perry
Partner

Re: Americans Believe Allowing Mexican Trucks to Travel Throughout the U.S. Is Dangerous

Dt: June 20, 2007

David Mermin
Partner

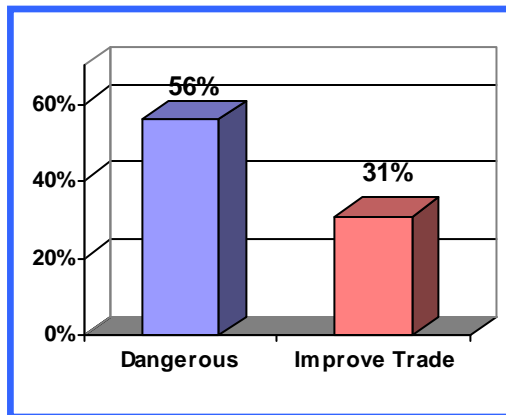
A majority of Americans believe the Bush administration's plan to allow Mexican commercial trucks to travel outside the commercial zone and throughout the United States is dangerous.

Robert G. Meadow, Ph.D.
Partner

A Lake Research Partners' national surveyⁱ shows, when given equal arguments about the issue using language both sides employ, a majority of Americans (56 percent) believe allowing a number of Mexican trucks to travel outside the commercial zone and throughout the United States is dangerous for U.S. drivers. Only one-in-three Americans (31 percent) believe allowing Mexican truckers to drive throughout the United will help improve trade between the U.S. and Mexico.ⁱⁱ

Daniel R. Gotoff
Partner

Joshua E. Ulibarri
Vice President



Rick Johnson
Vice President

Majority agreement that this is dangerous for U.S. drivers transcends gender, age, political identification, and region. Both men and women (56 percent each) believe the proposal is dangerous. Older voters are more intense in their agreement (64 percent), but even a majority of younger Americans agree (52 percent). Notably, self-identified independents (60 percent agree) are the most likely to agree that the Bush proposal is dangerous, though majorities of both Democrats (54 percent) and Republicans also agree (58 percent).

Further, a plurality of Americans (47 percent) feel if we permit trucks from Mexico to drive throughout the United States it will make the roads less safe for U.S. drivers (30 percent strongly feel that way).ⁱⁱⁱ Only 5 percent agrees that permitting Mexican trucks will make U.S. roads safer. Half (48 percent) are unsure. A plurality of Americans across demographic groups agree that allowing these truck onto our highways will make roads less safe for U.S. drivers, including 49% of men and 45% of women.

For more information on this issue, please contact John Lannen with the Truck Safety Coalition (703-294-6404). For more information on the survey, please contact Joshua Ulibarri in LRP's Washington, DC, office (202-776-9066).

ⁱ **Methodology:** Lake Research Partners designed this telephone survey and it was administered by CARAVAN® Opinion Research Corporation. The Truck Safety Coalition commissioned the questions. The survey was conducted among a national probability sample of 1,000 adults comprised of 485 men and 515 women, 18 years of age and older, living in private households in the continental United States. Interviewing was conducted April 12-17, 2007. The data has a margin of error of +/- 3.1 percentage points.

ⁱⁱ **Question Wording:** As you may know, under current United States trade agreements, trucks from Mexico are allowed to pick up and deliver goods only in commercial zones that extend 10 to 20 miles into the states that border Mexico. The Bush Administration has announced plans to allow a large number of trucks from Mexico to drive throughout the United States beginning in May 2007. Here is what some people are saying about this issue.

_Some/other people say this is a bad idea because Mexico does not have the same consistent safety requirements for truck equipment and truck drivers as the United States. The U.S. government cannot ensure the safety of trucks from Mexico once they are allowed to drive freely throughout the United States. It would be dangerous for the traveling public if we allow trucks from Mexico to operate throughout the United States.

_Some/other people say this is a good idea because it will not degrade safety since these trucks will be expected to meet U.S. safety standards. They say that allowing trucks from Mexico to drive throughout the United States will improve trade between the United States and Mexico. Which position is closer to your point of view?

ⁱⁱⁱ **Question Wording:** Do you think if we permit trucks from Mexico to drive throughout the United States it will make the roads safer for U.S. drivers, less safe, or are you unsure?