



January 14, 2014

Governor Nikki R. Haley  
1205 Pendleton Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Governor Haley,

The propane industry in South Carolina is experiencing a hardship with respect to hours of service needed to meet the propane demand of its customers. The recent record breaking temperatures in the region along with shortages in railcars, natural gas curtailments and increased demand along the Dixie Pipeline system has caused long delays at the Dixie truck terminals. The majority of propane coming to South Carolina comes via the Dixie system and is picked up at their Lexington and Cheraw terminals.

Cold temperatures forecasted for later this week and the rest of January will cause longer wait times for truckers at the Dixie terminals. Time waiting in line counts against the driver's allowable hours of service for driving even though they are only sitting idle in their trucks.

The propane industry in South Carolina sells approximately 125,000,000 gallons of propane annually with approximately 70% of those gallons being sold in the winter months and delivered to rural areas beyond the natural gas mains.

The poultry and pork industry in South Carolina are also large users of propane. They use propane to keep their broods and litters from freezing. This weather is also requiring them to use more propane, thereby increasing the number of deliveries they need.

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations 49 CFR limits the number of hours our propane drivers can operate. This restriction can put customers in jeopardy of being without heat because the hours allowed for driving have been exhausted before all deliveries have been made.

**SOUTH CAROLINA PROPANE GAS ASSOCIATION**

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As you know, Georgia has already suspended the federal regulations limiting the hours operators of commercial vehicles may drive pursuant to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations. North Carolina is considering doing the same today.

Based on the foregoing, the South Carolina Propane Gas Association requests that you grant a suspension of Part 395 (driver's hours of service) of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations for a period of seven (7) days or until the emergency condition ceases to exist, whichever is less.

Your consideration of our request is greatly appreciated. Please contact me if you have any questions.

With kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J.M. Clark, Jr.", is written over the typed name.

J.M. Clark, Jr.  
Executive Director