



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

April 13, 2018

The Honorable Robert L. Sumwalt, III
Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board
490 L'Enfant Plaza East, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20594

Dear Chairman Sumwalt:

This letter responds to the safety recommendation issued by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) concerning Accident Report NTSB/HAR-17/05 titled *Agricultural Labor Bus and Truck-Tractor Collision at US-98—SR-363 Intersection Near St. Marks, Florida, July 2, 2016*, adopted by the NTSB on November 28, 2017. Our response to the safety recommendation is discussed below, along with the requested designation.

NTSB Recommendation and Requested Designation:

H-17-62

Work with SAE International and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to improve truck-tractor side-mounted fuel tank crashworthiness to prevent catastrophic tank ruptures and limit postcollision fuel spillage, and develop and promulgate an updated standard.

NHTSA Action:

In January 2018, NHTSA reached out to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) and SAE International to identify recommended practices for side-mounted fuel tank integrity. As a result, this recommendation is under consideration as a new item of work for the SAE International Truck Crashworthiness Committee within the Truck and Bus Body and Occupant Environment Steering Committee. NHTSA will continue working with the FMCSA and SAE International through this committee to identify crashworthiness safety improvements for side-mounted fuel tanks.

Given these actions, NHTSA requests that Safety Recommendation H-17-62 be classified as "Open – Acceptable Response."

If you have any questions, or require additional information, please contact me or Mr. Brian Barnard, Director, Governmental Affairs, Policy and Strategic Planning, at 202-366-2386.

Sincerely yours,

Heidi R. King
Deputy Administrator