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**Operations and Finance Division**

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September 7, 2017

Ms. Whitney Brewster, Executive Director  
Texas Department of Motor Vehicles  
4000 Jackson Ave - Austin TX 78731

Re: Suspension of IRP and IFTA requirements for operators of commercial vehicles traveling through Iowa to provide disaster relief in Texas

Dear Ms. Brewster,

This is in response to your email of Friday, September 1, 2017, in which the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles, on behalf of Texas Governor Gregg Abbott, requested Iowa to suspend International Registration Plan (IRP) and International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA) requirements for operators of commercial vehicles that travel through Iowa state to provide disaster relief in Texas. Your email explained that Governor Greg Abbott suspended IRP and IFTA requirements for operators of commercial vehicles in Texas responding to the disaster relief efforts associated with Hurricane/Tropical Storm and confirmed that President Trump approved Governor Abbott's Texas disaster declaration and declared that a major disaster exists in the State of Texas. Your email also explained this action would expedite and expand the disaster response, and added that the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has already issued a Regional Declaration of Emergency in which it granted an exemption from Parts 390 through 399 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations for motor carriers and drivers providing direct assistance in the States of Texas as a result of Tropical Storm Harvey.

On behalf of the Iowa Department of Transportation, I am accepting your email as a petition for rule waiver under 761 Iowa Administrative Code 500.3, which applies to IRP regulations, and 761 Iowa Administrative Code 505.2(3), which applies to IFTA regulations. Each of these sections authorize the director of the Iowa Department of Transportation to waive the provisions of each respective chapter if the director finds that special or emergency circumstances exist, and defines special or emergency circumstances to include circumstances in which movement of commercial motor vehicles is necessary to cooperate with other states in response to a national or other disaster. As director, I find that special or emergency circumstances exist, for the reasons aptly stated in your email, and under the authority cited take the following actions to expedite the movement of commercial vehicles providing disaster relief to areas in the state of Texas declared a disaster under Governor Abbott's disaster declaration:

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1. I hereby waive IRP vehicle registration under 761 Iowa Administrative Code 500.1 et seq., to the extent the vehicle is not already registered under IRP, as long as the vehicle is registered in one of the 48 contiguous states, the District of Columbia, or a province of Canada. This waiver includes waiver of the requirement to obtain a trip permit under 761 Iowa Administrative Code 500.24.
2. I hereby waive IFTA licensing under 761 Iowa Administrative Code 505.1 et seq., to the extent the vehicle is not already licensed under IFTA. This waiver includes waiver of the requirement to obtain a temporary fuel permit under 761 Iowa Administrative Code 505.3(9).

These waivers apply to commercial vehicles traveling through the state of Iowa for the purpose of providing direct assistance in disaster areas in the state of Texas. These waivers shall become effective at 12:01AM on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of September and shall continue until midnight on the 14<sup>th</sup> calendar day after termination or expiration of Governor Abbott's disaster declaration, dated August 23, 2017, as amended. In that regard we would appreciate your confirmation when the disaster declaration formally terminates or expires.

On behalf of the Iowa Department of Transportation and Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds, I sincerely hope this action is of aid and benefit to the victims of Tropical Storm Harvey and your recovery efforts, and invite you to call on us immediately if we can be of further assistance. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

Best regards,



Mark Lowe, Director  
Iowa Department of Transportation

Delivered electronically to: [Whitney.Brewster@TxDMV.gov](mailto:Whitney.Brewster@TxDMV.gov)

cc: Office of Governor Kim Reynolds

