

June 14, 2011

(Washington, D.C.) – U.S. Congressman Jason Altmire (PA-04), Ranking Member of the Small Business Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight, participated in a hearing in Washington, D.C. today to examine a proposed rule the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration released regarding Hours of Service for freight trucks. There is a growing concern that if these new regulations go into effect, they could result in higher overhead costs for many small businesses that rely on freight trucks to deliver their goods nationwide, as well as significant difficulties for small trucking operations.

Rusty Rader, the CFO of J.J. Kennedy, Inc., a family-owned ready mix concrete business headquartered in Fombell, PA testified about the burdens the new regulations would cause to his small business if they are finalized. Since joining J.J. Kennedy, Inc. in 1994, Mr. Rader has worked to expand the business from a two-plant local operation to six plants operating in 15 counties throughout western Pennsylvania.

**"Last fall, I was able to tour one of J.J. Kennedy Inc.'s plants in western Pennsylvania. I saw firsthand the innovative technologies the company employs to ensure their customers are receiving the best and most reliable service," Altmire said. "The current rules allow businesses to meet the schedules and demands of their customers. If these regulations were to go into effect, the flexibility that has allowed many businesses to succeed on their own terms would be eliminated."**

**"Companies need to have the flexibility to give breaks as the schedule dictates throughout the day," said Rader. "Concrete is a perishable product, and once a delivery is started it must be completed or the concrete may harden in the truck causing thousands of dollars worth of damage, and potentially violating a delivery contract. Every day is different in the construction field. Companies need the flexibility to deliver concrete when the customer needs it."**

The changes proposed by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration include reducing maximum driving time from 11 to 10 hours, mandating that drivers be off-duty during two consecutive nights in a seven-day period, requiring periodic 30-minute breaks, and holding drivers to a strict 14-hour operating window. The new regulations are scheduled to go into effect

in October, 2011.