

I just received an alert that there is a meeting today at 3:00. I am particularly concerned about SB 850. The lane restriction, although sounding like a good idea, will put an extra amount of traffic in the right 2 lanes. Currently tractor trailers are restricted to those lanes. I believe the extra vehicles will create more of a hazard for the trucks. There is also talk of raising the speed limit to 75. Unless you raise the limit for trucks along with passenger cars there is going to be greater potential for more accidents. Many studies have been done regarding the safety issue of such a wide difference in speeds. A 20 mph difference is asking for trouble. We operate a small truck company based in Lebanon and run the I-5 daily. Every day we encounter many cars traveling well past the 65 mph limit as well as trucks exceeding the 55 mph limit. Most cars currently run 70 while the trucks keep it around 62. This seems to be a good compromise. If the limit is raised to 75 mph, many cars will push it to 80, while the trucks will still be running at 65. That is a 15 mph difference. I believe this situation will be comparable to coming upon a farm tractor unexpectedly and having little or no time to react. Many car drivers now really don't pay attention to traffic. Most of them drive like "they are on a mission" not fully concentrating. I would extend an invitation to you to come ride along with our senior driver for a day and see what it looks like from high above the "real world" of the freeways. I urge you to consider the safety ramifications of creating a 20 mph difference in the speed limits. Thank you
Linda Covell, Covell Transport, Lebanon