

## **Unified Carrier Registration Plan Issues**

UCRA replaced the Single State Registration System in 2007, and UCRA fees have not changed since that time. However, Congress amended UCRA in 2008 to remove trailers from the calculation of the fees, and before states may collect any UCRA fees for 2010, the fee structure must be amended. This process begins with a recommendation from the UCRA Board of Directors to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration as to what the fees should be. FMCSA itself then sets the fees pursuant to a formal federal rulemaking. This spring, the UCRA Board voted to recommend sharply higher 2010 UCRA fees to FMCSA. Industry representatives on the Board, including ATA, opposed the recommendation, but were outnumbered by state officials on the Board.

FMCSA began its rulemaking in September with the publication of a proposed rule that put the fees about where the states had asked them to. Comments from the industry, however, of which there were nearly 200, opposed the increase strongly. The rulemaking is currently being reviewed by the White House, and is not expected to be issued before the summer of 2010.

On March 2, 2010, FMCSA issued what it called “regulatory guidance” to the effect that states participating in the UCRA program could begin collecting 2010 fees even before the final rule was issued, if states used the 2009 fees, but eliminated trailing equipment from the calculation. On March 11, however, the UCRA Board, seeing this proposed early collection as disruptive to the program and of questionable legality, prohibited the states from collecting any UCRA fees for 2010 until the final rule is formally issued.

ATA will continue to oppose any UCRA fee changes beyond those that may be necessary to accommodate the elimination of trailing equipment from the fee calculation. In addition, ATA will explore its options with Congress to repeal the UCRA program altogether. For more details on the proposed fee increases, click [here](#). For a more detailed statement of ATA’s position *vis a vis* the states, click [here](#).