

American Trucking Associations (ATA)
Issue: Senate Amendment 4588 (Schumer) to H.R. 5441

SUMMARY: American Trucking Associations (ATA) opposes an amendment filed to the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill (H.R. 5441) by Senator Schumer to appropriate \$50 million for the development and implementation of a system for immediately identifying the exact location of certain hazardous materials shipments moving by truck.

ATA POSITION: OPPOSE AMENDMENT 4588 TO H.R. 5441.

- **There are no offsets for the \$50 million the amendment would appropriate. Vote against the amendment and sustain the budget point of order against the amendment. This is not an emergency requirement.**
- **The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is currently conducting a hazmat tracking pilot project.** The pilot was initiated in August 2005; no additional action needs to be taken at this time.
- **Because GPS systems are easily defeated, they would not be effective in deterring terrorism.** On September 11th the first thing the terrorists did was disable the airplane transponders. GPS on trucks are vulnerable and may be defeated several ways:
 - Cutting power to the transponder, otherwise disabling the transponder
 - Shielding the transponder or parking the truck in an area that does not have “line of sight” to the satellite
 - Satellite transponders are incapable of detecting whether an explosive device has been attached to the trailer awaiting detonation by remote control.
- **The cost of implementing GPS would ultimately be borne by the trucking industry. The total cost would be well in excess of \$50 million.**
 - Although the amendment is limited to certain types of hazardous materials, motor carriers do not dedicate trucks to the transport of these low volume materials. They would therefore have to equip their entire fleets with mandated GPS technology.
 - GPS systems are expensive, costing approximately \$1,500 per vehicle installed. Annual communications costs could be extremely expensive since the legislation would require that a shipment be able to be immediately located. Rather than absorb such costs, many companies would simply choose not to handle these products.