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STATEMENT BY SECRETARY ELIZABETH HANFORD DOLE
- THURSDAY FEBRUARY 10, 1983

We are pleased by today's announcement calling for an end to the attempted shut-down of highway commerce. America's truckers must be free to drive again without fearing for their lives or the safety of their trucks.

As we indicated prior to the attempted shut-down and as we have repeatedly said over the past 10 days, we remain ready and willing to discuss the truckers' concerns with responsible representatives of the industry. We hope that now we can address the issues calmly and in an atmosphere of mutual respect.

We are prepared to work with the industry and the states to achieve uniformity in state regulations and registration fees. We also welcome the industry's voice in our report to the Congress on alternative ways to collect the heavy vehicle use tax when it goes into effect in 1984 and 1985. The trucking industry is a vital part of our commerce and our economy, and anything that damages the industry hurts our nation.

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