

STATEMENT OF HON. VIRGINIA MAE BROWN, VICE CHAIRMAN, INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION; ACCOMPANIED BY GEORGE M. STAFFORD, COMMISSIONER; DALE W. HARDIN, COMMISSIONER; BERTRAM E. STILLWELL, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF PROCEEDINGS; BERNARD E. GOULD, DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF ENFORCEMENT; ROBERT W. GINNANE, GENERAL COUNSEL; ROBERT L. CALHOUN, LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL; AND JAMES GLENN, CONGRESSIONAL LIAISON OFFICER

Mrs. BROWN. Good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee.

I want to first introduce the people I have with me from the Interstate Commerce Commission this morning.

Commissioner Stafford, Commissioner Hardin, Director Stillwell of the Office of Proceedings, Director Gould of the Bureau of Enforcement, and General Counsel Robert Ginnane. We have also Mr. Calhoun, our legislative counsel, and Mr. Glenn, our congressional liaison officer.

My name is Virginia Mae Brown. I am Vice Chairman of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

On behalf of the Commission, I wish to thank the subcommittee for this opportunity to testify on H.R. 6530, introduced by Chairman Staggers.

This bill is designed to clarify the scope of section 203(b)(5) of the Interstate Commerce Act which presently exempts from the Commission's economic regulation the transportation performed by Agricultural Cooperative Associations for nonmembers.

In addition to this bill, I will also be commenting on S. 752, as amended, and passed by the Senate on June 4, 1968, which deals with the same general subject although in a much different fashion.

H.R. 6530 implements one of the Commission's legislative recommendations transmitted to Congress last year by amending section 203(b)(5) so as to limit the transportation by agricultural cooperatives for nonmembers to farm products, farm supplies, or other farm related traffic.

This bill is identical to S. 752, as originally introduced and upon which the Commission testified before the Senate Subcommittee on Surface Transportation on July 24, 1967. (Hearings on agricultural cooperative transportation exemption before the Subcommittee on Surface Transportation of the Senate Committee on Commerce, 90th Cong., first sess., 1967.)

In the interest of saving the committee's time, I will not restate in detail our reasons for recommending this legislation. For the information of the subcommittee, a copy of former Chairman Tucker's testimony before the Senate subcommittee is attached at the conclusion of my prepared remarks.

Mr. FRIEDEL. That will be included in the record. Thank you.

Mrs. BROWN. As the attached statement points out in detail, the Commission for the last several years has been concerned over the effect which the transportation activities of exempt agricultural cooperatives for persons other than members of the cooperation on the Nation's regulated common carriers, in particular the extent to which