

Women In Trucking President participates in Drug Testing Advisory Board Hearing

July 13, 2011

Plover, WI: The Drug Testing Advisory Board (DTAB) held a hearing on July 13, 2011 in Rockville, MD. Ellen Voie, Women In Trucking Association's (WIT) President/CEO participated via teleconference and submitted her comments in the public forum.

Janine Denis Cook, Ph.D. represented the DTAB and welcomed the participants to the session. Board members were introduced and officials from the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention made recommendations to the committee.

The public was invited to participate in the session and Voie asked the board to approve the use of hair follicle testing for transportation workers. Currently, only urine specimens are allowed under federal guidelines, but some carriers are already using hair testing as a pre-employment requirement for drivers.

Some of the problems Voie stated were concerns that affect women because of anatomical differences affecting the collection process. In addition, some drivers (male and female) experience difficulty in providing a specimen and are punished as if they were refusing to produce a drug testing sample. Basically, providing a hair follicle for testing is a less invasive procedure and has been proven to be more scientifically accurate.

"Safety is the focus, and by accurately eliminating those who choose to abuse drugs and then operate a motor vehicle, our highways will be safer for all of us," Voie said. "Hair follicle testing is easier to administer and more accurate in detecting drug use over a longer period of time." Representatives from the American Trucking Association as well as Roehl Transport and J.B. Hunt Transport, Inc. both who administer hair follicle testing, also submitted comments.

The next hearing of the Drug Testing Advisory Board will be September 12-13, 2011. Public comments are welcome and encouraged.

Ellen Voie
President/CEO
Women In Trucking Association, Inc.