



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
P.O. Box 600
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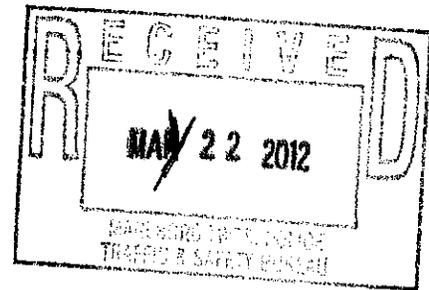
CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

JAMES S. SIMPSON
Commissioner

May 14, 2012

Sergeant Joseph Lenge
Marlboro Township Police Department
Traffic & Safety Bureau
1979 Township Drive
Marlboro, NJ 08730



RE: ENGINE BRAKING SIGN REQUEST
Route NJ 18, various locations
Marlboro Township, Monmouth County

Dear Sergeant Lenge:

Commissioner Simpson has asked me to respond to your letter of April 16, 2012 requesting the installation of NO ENGINE BRAKING signs along Route NJ 18. On behalf of the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), I am pleased to assist you.

NJDOT does not support the use of signs along the State roadway system to prohibit or limit the use of engine braking. It is recognized that engine braking has both safety and operational benefits. The safety benefits represent that a heavy duty vehicle can be operated in a more controlled manner in a "normal" braking and/or decelerating condition, as well as in an "emergency" braking situation. These benefits are for the driver's safety as well as the public. The operational benefits represent that the use of engine braking will prolong equipment life, which continues to support the safety benefits.

NJDOT certainly recognizes that unnecessary noise occurs whether from engine braking or improper exhaust systems. Mufflers must be properly installed and maintained for engine (compression) braking and its importance when properly used. To protect against unnecessary noise resulting from engine braking, mufflers must be properly installed and maintained. You may wish to familiarize yourself with N.J.S.A. 39:3-70, a statute requiring that mufflers be maintained in "proper working order".

NJDOT certainly understands the importance of quality of life. However, there is also an inherent responsibility on our part to insure that every available means is used to safeguard the public and ensure the safe and expeditious movement of traffic. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 609-530-3717.

Sincerely,

David J. Martin
Supervising Engineer
Bureau of Traffic Engineering