

Beeline Tours Ltd. 12721 Renton Ave S. Seattle, WA. 98178 (206) 632-5162 1 (800) 959-8387 FAX# 1.206.770.6549

email: info@beetinetours.com

Your honor,

I'm requesting a mitigation hearing to ask the court to reduce the fine amount by \$3000.00. The reason for the request is as follows.

First, I feel the amount of the penalty is not proportional to the infraction. The FMCSA uses CSA to weight the severity of violations on a scale of 1 to 10 with 10 being the most severe. It weighs medical card violations as a 1, which is the same as a seatbelt violation and less then log book violation.

Second, one driver went 8 days over and another 25 days over, neither of which is acceptable but when taken into context with the amount of driving taking place in the 12 month period with 5 full time employed drivers it is relatively speaking a very small fraction of the overall time on the road.

Lastly \$3300.00 would cause a harmful financial burden to my company in a time when my business is struggling to get back on its feet.

In closing, I've been in business since 1996 and while administrative errors have occurred as well as other oversights. I can say with pride that we have a perfect safety record on the road with no reportable accidents or injuries. Not sure if any company in my industry with a 15 year history can make the same claim.

Respectfully,

Michael Rogers

President

# SERVICE DATE



MAR 3 0 2011

#### STATE OF WASHINGTON

### WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W., P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250 (360) 664-1160 • TTY (360) 586-8203

March 30, 2011

# NOTICE REQUIRING BEELINE TOURS LTD. TO STATE REASONS IN SUPPORT OF ITS APPLICATION FOR MITIGATION (Due by April 14, 2011)

# NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR STAFF RESPONSE TO STATEMENT OF SUPPORT (Due by April 28, 2011)

NOTICE OF HEARING (Set for May 12, 2011, 1:30 p.m.)

Re: Beeline Tours Ltd., Request for Mitigation of Penalty Assessment,

Docket TE-110155

## TO ALL PARTIES:

On March 1, 2011, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) issued Penalty Assessment TE-110155 against Beeline Tours Ltd. (Beeline Tours) in the amount of \$3,300, alleging 33 violations of Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 480-30-221. On March 15, 2011, Beeline Tours filed with the Commission its request for a mitigation hearing. Beeline Tours admits the alleged violations, but asks that the penalty amount be reduced. However, Beeline Tours neither stated a specific amount it believes appropriate for a reduced penalty nor provided any reason in support of its request.

Pursuant to RCW 34.05.482 and WAC 480-07-610, the Commission determines that this matter is suitable to be conducted as a brief adjudicative proceeding (BAP). The statutes and rules governing BAPs may be accessed via the Commission Internet web pages at <a href="www.utc.wa.gov">www.utc.wa.gov</a> or parties may obtain copies of the rules by contacting the Commission's Records Center at (360) 664-1234.

In order to conduct this BAP and hold a mitigation hearing, the Commission requires that Beeline Tours file a statement of the reason(s) it believes support the requested reduction in the penalties assessed.

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THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE That Beeline Tours is required to file by April 14, 2011, a statement of the reasons it believes would justify a reduction in the penalties assessed in Penalty Assessment TE-110155. Beeline Tours must also identify the amount of reduction in penalties it believes is justified by the mitigating circumstances it intends to show.

THE COMMISSION GIVES FURTHER NOTICE That Commission Staff may file a response to Beeline Tours statement of support by April 28, 2011.

# <u>NOTICE TO PARTIES</u> ABOUT FILING AND SERVING YOUR STATEMENTS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS:

- 1. You must file your statement with the Commission by the date noticed, and you must include any other documents that you rely on in support of your statement. Except, you do not need to include the penalty assessment, the response to the penalty assessment, and Beeline Tours does not need to include any written material (such as rules or orders) that are publicly available on line if they are clearly described so they can be found easily.
- 2. You must also send a copy of your filing to the opposing party by overnight delivery when you send the original to the Commission.

THE COMMISSION GIVES FURTHER NOTICE That it will conduct a brief adjudicative proceeding in this matter at 1:30 p.m., on Thursday, May 12, 2011, in Room 108, Richard Hemstad Building, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W., Olympia, Washington. Parties will be given the opportunity to make brief oral statements and may be asked to respond to questions. Any such testimony will be given under oath. If you are unable to attend the brief adjudicative proceeding in person, you may attend via the Commission's teleconference bridge line at (360) 664-3846. Please appear on the teleconference bridge five minutes before the hearing is scheduled to begin.

THE COMMISSION ALSO GIVES NOTICE that any party who fails to attend or participate in the brief adjudicative proceeding set by this Notice, or any other stage of this proceeding, may be held in default under RCW 34.05.440 and WAC 480-07-450.

Sincerely,

ADAM E. TOREM

Administrative Law Judge