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(71) Applicant: **TRINITY HIGHWAY PRODUCTS LLC**

[US/US]; 2525 N. Stemmons Freeway, Dallas, TX 75207 (US).

(72) Inventor: **BUEHLER, Michael J.**; 1121 Cresthaven Drive, Roseville, CA 95678 (US).

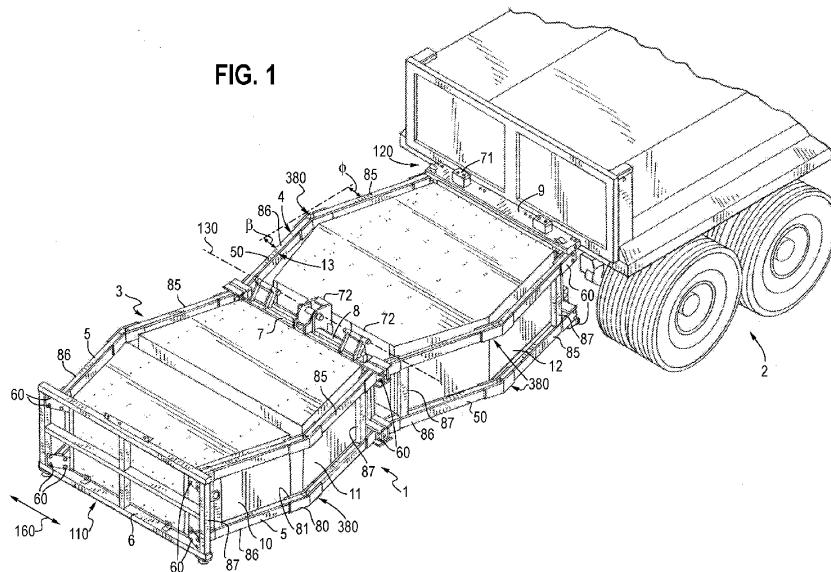
(74) Agent: **STOVER, Andrew D.**; Brinks Gilson & Lione, P.O. Box 10087, Chicago, IL 60610 (US).

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(54) Title: CRASH ATTENUATOR WITH RELEASE PLATE HINGE ASSEMBLY, RELEASE PLATE HINGE ASSEMBLY AND METHOD FOR THE USE THEREOF

FIG. 1



(57) Abstract: A crash attenuator includes a frame having a first frame member and a second frame member rigidly connected with a hinge assembly in a pre-impact configuration. The first and second frames are hingedly connected with the hinge assembly in an impact configuration. The hinge assembly includes a release plate fixedly connected to the first frame member, wherein the release plate comprises a fastener opening and a slot extending between the fastener opening and an edge of the release plate, and a fastener extending through the fastener opening and connecting the release plate to the second frame member when the first and second frames are in the pre-impact configuration. A hinge assembly, and method of using the crash attenuator, are also provided.

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