

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 24, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Thank you for your continued service promoting transportation and freight safety. As our country continues to move beyond the pandemic, new challenges – such as supply chain issues and inflation are plaguing the transportation industry. A major contributor to these challenges, and the purpose of this letter, is the serious shortage of qualified drivers in the motor fuels distribution industry. As Co-chair of the Supply Chain Disruption Task Force, which has developed the Trucking Action Plan, we request your urgent attention to this extremely important matter.

As you know, the shortage of qualified drivers holding commercial driver's licenses (CDLs) harms manufacturers, wholesale distributors, retail marketers, and ultimately consumers. The pool of qualified CDL holders has been decreasing for the past decade, and further declined during the pandemic, leading to a nationwide shortage of CDL drivers necessary to deliver essential goods to American consumers. This shortage is particularly acute among those drivers transporting motor fuels that require a hazardous materials¹ endorsement (HME) pursuant to 49 CFR § 383.93(b)(4).

The shortage of qualified drivers has become so severe that motor fuels distributors are finding it increasingly difficult to move gasoline and other petroleum products to wholesale and retail customers in a timely manner. Compounding the shortage of qualified CDL drivers is long wait times at terminal racks, and these factors insert profound uncertainty into America's petroleum distribution chain.

The Trucking Action Plan, recently rolled out by the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), requests input from stakeholders, regulators, and enforcement authorities on ways to increase the number of qualified CDL drivers and eliminate distribution chain backlogs across all industry sectors.

We have heard from many drivers in the motor fuels marketing industry who express frustration that the training curricula requirements for HMEs are largely unrelated to their jobs. As USDOT

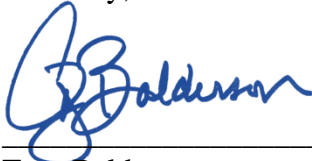
¹ To include, among others, all finished motor and heating fuel products sold nationwide including renewable hydrocarbon biofuels, gasoline, diesel fuel, biofuels, heating fuel, jet fuel, kerosene, racing fuel and lubricating oils.

seeks to address the current CDL driver shortage and implement the Trucking Action Plan, we encourage the Department to consider modifying the HME training and testing requirements to place a larger focus on HME-specific education. We acknowledge that this suggestion is no easy task and welcome opportunities to work with USDOT and relevant stakeholders to think through a host of solutions. Ultimately, we hope that a sensibly streamlined HME training and testing process will result in more drivers undergoing their requisite training, meeting their testing requirements, and having better situational safety awareness relevant to their jobs.

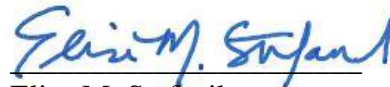
We also encourage USDOT to work with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to eliminate costly background check redundancies within the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC), HME, and TSA PreCheck programs. Truck drivers hauling sensitive freight to secure facilities must obtain additional credentials beyond their CDL, such as the TWIC and HME. These credentials, while vital to safety and security, are managed by TSA through duplicative background checks, redundant fees, and avoidable administrative hurdles. Given that the background check required for all three programs is the same, and given that one government agency manages these programs, we believe that streamlining the enrollment process for individuals seeking multiple credentials is common sense and good government. Importantly, by taking these steps, USDOT can help increase the number of qualified drivers, reduce supply chain backlogs, and support the timely and uninterrupted delivery of essential motor fuel products that drive America's economy.

Alongside your state and federal regulatory partners, we stand ready to help USDOT address these issues to ensure timely product delivery to American consumers. We appreciate your attention to this important issue and welcome the opportunity to collaborate with you and your staff in the near future.

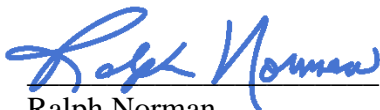
Sincerely,



Troy Balderson
Member of Congress



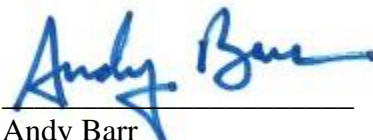
Elise M. Stefanik
Member of Congress



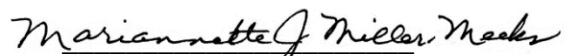
Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



Trent Kelly
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Andy Barr
Member of Congress



Mariannette Miller-Meeks, M.D.
Member of Congress



Ken Calvert
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Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress



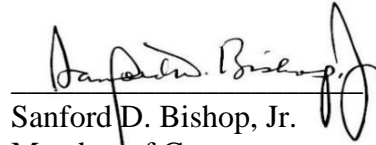
Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
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Cathy McMorris Rodgers
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A. Drew Ferguson IV
Member of Congress



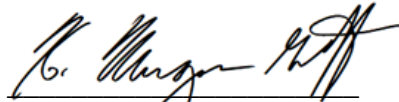
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
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Barry Loudermilk
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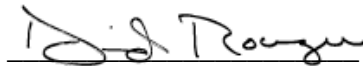
Debbie Lesko
Member of Congress



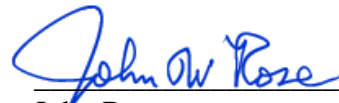
H. Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress



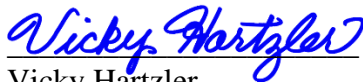
Randy Feenstra
Member of Congress



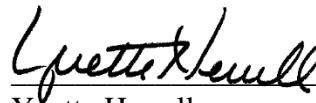
David Rouzer
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John Rose
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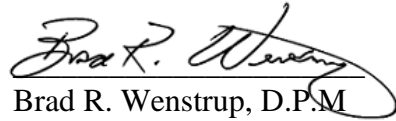
Vicky Hartzler
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Yvette Herrell
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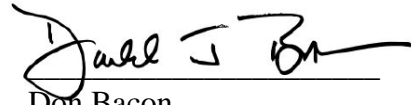
Pete Stauber
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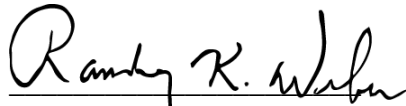
Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.
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Don Bacon
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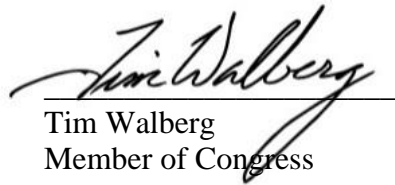
Randy K. Weber
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Rodney Davis
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Steve Chabot
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Tim Walberg
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Rick W. Allen
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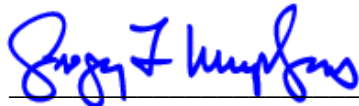
Kelly Armstrong
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Darin LaHood
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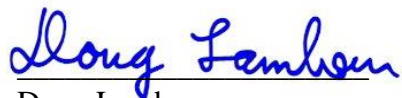
Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.
Member of Congress



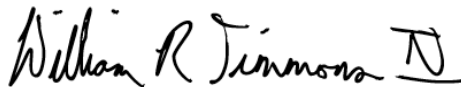
Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



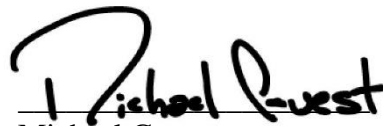
Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



Scott Perry
Member of Congress



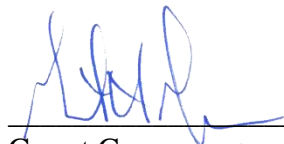
William R. Timmons, IV
Member of Congress



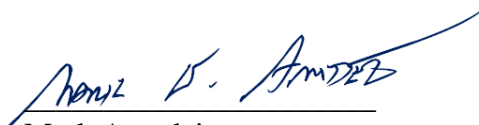
Michael Guest
Member of Congress



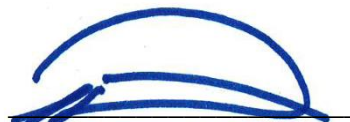
Diana Harshbarger
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Garret Graves
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Mark Amodei
Member of Congress



Scott DesJarlais
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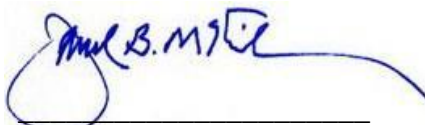
Tim Burchett
Member of Congress



Ben Cline
Member of Congress



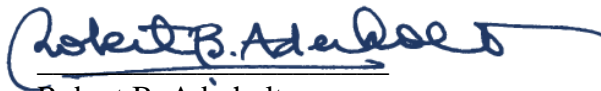
David G. Valadao
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David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress



Liz Cheney
Member of Congress



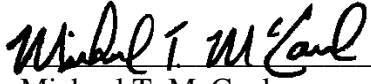
Robert B. Aderholt
Member of Congress



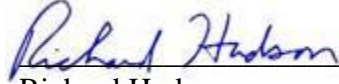
Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress



Steven M. Palazzo
Member of Congress



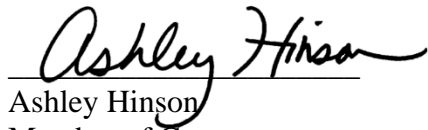
Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress



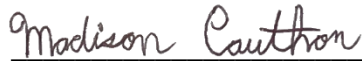
Richard Hudson
Member of Congress



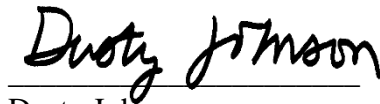
Guy Reschenthaler
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Ashley Hinson
Member of Congress



Madison Cawthorn
Member of Congress



Dusty Johnson
Member of Congress



Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
Member of Congress



Adrian Smith
Member of Congress



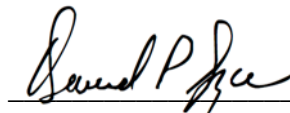
Young Kim
Member of Congress



Eric A. "Rick" Crawford
Member of Congress



Mark E. Green, M.D.
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David P. Joyce
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Beth Van Duyne
Member of Congress



Burgess Owens
Member of Congress



Michael Waltz
Member of Congress



David Schweikert
Member of Congress



Michelle Fischbach
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable David Pekoske, Administrator, Transportation Security Administration