

April 7, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy, and Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the following businesses and associations, we write to inform you of a major problem that stands to impact our nation's ability to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. To date, 27 states have closed their State Driver's License Agency (SDLAs). 23 SDLAs remain operational, but with only limited service offerings (limited locations, limited hours, appointment only, etc.). This is a critical problem because SDLAs need to remain open to test and issue Commercial Learner's Permits and Licenses (CDLs). Unless they remain open, or alternative steps are taken, no new commercial drivers will be licensed, and transportation demands cannot be met.

Already, industries that rely on CDL drivers have begun to note the adverse impact on their ability to source new drivers while at the same time facing increased shipping volume demands. Moreover, given that the duration of the pandemic is unknown, it is all the more important that action be taken immediately to maintain the supply chain's necessary resource: trained and licensed CDL drivers.

Federal Authorities Have Waived Countless Regulations, But More Action is Required

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has already taken drastic steps that support the transportation industry by temporarily waiving various State-compliance provisions.¹ Likewise, recent Department of Homeland Security guidance deems as essential: "[w]orkers who support necessary credentialing, vetting and licensing operations for transportation workers."² But neither of these federal actions alone can require or compel a state to open its SDLA. In

¹ U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, *Waiver in Response to the COVID-19 Emergency –For States, CDL Holders, CLP Holders, and Interstate Drivers Operating Commercial Motor Vehicles*, March 24, 2020 (available at <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/emergency/fmcsa-cdl-waiver-32420>); *Notice to State Drivers Licensing Agencies of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's Policy Regarding Effect of Actions during COVID-19 Emergency*, March 20, 2020 (available at <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/emergency/notice-state-drivers-licensing-agencies-federal-motor-carrier-safety-administrations>)

² U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, CYBERSECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AGENCY (CISA), *Memorandum on Identification of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers During COVID-19 Response*, March 19, 2020 available at: <https://www.cisa.gov/publication/guidance-essential-critical-infrastructure-workforce>.

states that have closed their SDLA, there is no training, testing, or licensing of new commercial drivers at the very time training and licensing is needed most: to respond and emerge from the COVID-19 hibernation.

We have sent a [letter](#) to all governors requesting immediate action to clarify state executive orders and decrees that Commercial Driver Training Schools (CDL Schools) and SDLAs must remain open. In that letter, we also recommend additional actions governors and states may take to maintain health safety protocols while enabling new drivers to get training and CDL licenses.

Establish Temporary Federal Authority Regarding CDL Licensing

The cumulative impact of SDLA closures requires bold action because our nation and our economy will continue to suffer without new commercial drivers. Therefore, we urge you to vest the Secretary of Transportation with temporary, concurrent authority to issue CDLs, or allow CDL Schools to do so. Each month, anywhere between 25,000-40,000 Americans are issued a Commercial Driver's License.³ These new drivers were critical to the supply chain before COVID-19 and are all the more so now. Congress has already responded with bold action by passing the COVID-19 Stimulus package. However, we believe additional bold action is necessary to ensure that our nation is able to produce new commercial drivers to help both in the short-term, but also move our nation's goods as we emerge from this hibernation.

The proposed [legislation](#) would grant the Secretary temporary authority (180 days or less) to administer CLP or CDL testing, or to approve certain designated entities (CDL schools, motor carrier training programs, unions, or other types) to conduct training and certify the knowledge and skills in lieu of issuing a CLP or CDL. It is needed because as SDLAs are closed (or will be closed), our nation will be hurting those directly responsible for moving 70% of America's freight.

We also believe that this legislation can quickly be implemented by the Department of Transportation and will, most importantly, maintain safety. This temporary federal authority would be a grant of concurrent authority to SDLAs, who may be shut down or severely impacted and are unable to keep up with the demand for commercial drivers.

We urge you to act on this important issue immediately.

Sincerely,

Trade Associations

Agribusiness Council of Indiana
Agricultural and Food Transporters Conference
Agricultural Retailers Association
American Bus Association
American Frozen Food Institute
Commercial Vehicle Training Association
Consumer Brands Association

³ Class A, B, or C Commercial Driver's License.

Florida Trucking Association
Global Cold Chain Alliance
International Foodservice Distributors Association
Kentucky Trucking Association
MN Crop Production Retailers
National Association of Publicly Funded Truck Driving Schools
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
National Pork Producers Council
Nebraska Trucking Association
Oklahoma Trucking Association
The Fertilizer Institute
Truck Renting and Leasing Association
Truckload Carriers Association
United Motorcoach Association
Women in Trucking
Wyoming Ag Business Association

Transportation/Logistics/Shippers

Boyd Bros. Transport., Inc., Birmingham, AL
C.H. Robinson, Eden Prairie, MN
C.R. England, Salt Lake City, UT
CFI, Joplin, MO
Clean Harbors, Norwell, MA
Covenant Transport, Chattanooga, TN
CRST International, Cedar Rapids, IA
D. M. Bowman, Inc., Williamsport, MD
DOT Foods, Mt. Sterling, IL
EPES Transport System, Greensboro, NC
Exel, Westerville, OH
Fox River Fiber, DePere, WI
H. O. Wolding, Amherst, WI
Hogan Transports, Inc., Bridgeton, MO
Jelly Belly Candy Co., Fairfield, CA
Karl's Transport, Antigua, WI
Knight-Swift Transportation, Phoenix, AZ
Kraft Heinz Company, Chicago, IL
Level 2 Logistics/Estes Express, Richmond, VA
LRC-Shawano Paper Mill, Shawano, WI
LSB Industries, Oklahoma, OK
MACTac, Scranton, PA
Maverick Transportation, N. Little Rock, AR
May Trucking Company, Salem, OR
McElroy Truck Lines, Cuba, AL
Melton Truck Lines, Tulsa, OK
Merschman Seeds, West Point, IA

Midwest Paper Group, Combined, WI
MTR, Inc., Upper Marlboro, MD
NTB Trucking, Wyoming, MI
P&S Transportation, Elizabeth, NJ
Paschall Truck Lines, Murray, KY
Pilot Flying J, Knoxville, TN
Pixelle Specialty Solutions, Spring Grove, PA
Radiant Clipper, Woodbridge, IL
Reinhart Food Service, Richmond, VA
Reston Limo, Loudon County, VA
Roadtex LTL/SLG, Bridgetown, NJ
Roehl Transport, Marshfield, WI
Sapp Brothers, Omaha, NE
Schneider National, Green Bay, WI
Schreiber Foods, Fullerton, CA
Stevens Transport, Dallas, TX
Supreme Trucking Group, Dublin, CA
TA Petro Shopping Centers, Westlake, OH
TMC Transportation, Des Moines, IA
TransAm Trucking, Olathe, KS
Transland Trucking, Springfield, MO
Transport America, Eagan, MN
UPS, Atlanta, GA
US Xpress, Chattanooga, TN
Werner Enterprises, Omaha, NE
Yara North America, Inc., Tampa, FL

CDL Schools

160 Driving Academy, Evanston, IL
Advanced Career Institute, Visalia, CA
Affordable Truck Driver Training, Moulton, AL
All State Career School, Essington, MD
American Truck Schools, Redding, CA
American Truck Training, Inc., Oklahoma City, OK
Ancora Education, Augusta, TX
Apex CDL Institute, Kansas City, KS
ATDS Career Education, Elm Mott, TX
Berks Technical Institute, Wyomissing, PA
Black Wolf CDL Training Center, Bryan, TX
Bluegrass CDL Academy, Winchester, KY
Boyd Driving Academy, Birmingham, AL
C1 Truck Driver Training, Indianapolis, IN
California Truck Driving Academy, Santa Ana, CA
Canandaigua Driving School, Farmington, NY
Career Tech, LLC, Lakeland, FL

CC Training, Morton, DE
CDL Training and Consulting Services, Paducah, KY
CDL Xpress Truck Driving School, Indianapolis, IN
CDS Tractor Trailer Training, Woodford, VA
Center for Employment Education, Anchorage, AK
Coastal Truck Driving School, New Orleans, LA
Commercial Driver Training, West Babylon, NY
Commercial Vehicle Training Center, Watkins, CO
Continental Truck Driver Training, Dallas, TX
Delta Technical College, Hornlake, MS
Diesel Driving Academy, Shreveport, LA
Exel Driver Services, Henderson, CO
Fayetteville Technical Community College, Fayetteville, NC
Ferrari Driving School, Astoria, NY
Future Truckers of America, Asheboro, NC
Georgia Driving Academy, Conyers, GA
Global Trucking Academy, Mansura, LA
Great Lakes Truck Driving School, Columbia Station, OH
Hamrick School, Medina, OH
HDS Truck Driving Institute, Tucson, AZ
Heavy Metal Truck Training, Eagan, MN
Interstate Truck Driving School, S. St. Paul, MN
J-Tech Institute, Jacksonville, FL
JTL Truck Driver Training, Omaha, NB
Karl's Transport Commercial Driver CDL Training School, Antigo, WI
KATLAW Truck Driving Schools, Austell, GA
Lancaster County Career & Technology Center, Willow Street, PA
Maverick Transportation, North Little Rock, AR
Midwest Technical Institute - Springfield, MO,
Millis Transfer, Cartersville, GA
Mississippi Truck Driving School, L.L.C., Hickory Flat, MI
MTC Truck Driver Training, Hazelwood, MO
Napier Truck Driver Training, Hamilton, OH
National Tractor Trailer School, Liverpool, NY
NETTTS, Quincy, MA
Northeast Technical Institute, Scarborough, ME
Ohio Business College, Middletown, MO
Pacific NW Professional Driving School, Tacoma, WA
PIA Jump Start Programs, West Mifflin, PA
Progressive Truck Driving School, Cicero, IL
Roadmaster Drivers School, Tampa, FL
Roehl Driver Training Center, Marshfield, WI
Schneider National, Green Bay, WI
Shelly Truck Driving School, York, PA
Smith & Solomon, Bordentown, NJ
Stevens Transport Truck Driving Schools, Dallas, TX
Suburban Truck Driving Schools, Romulus, MI

SunCoast Trucking Academy, Inc., Punta Gorda, FL
Swift Driving Academy, Memphis, TN
Taylor Truck Driving Schools, Burlington, WA
Tennessee Truck Driving School, Louisville, TN
TMC Transportation, Des Moines, IA
Transtech, Newton, NC
Truck America Training of KY., LLC, Shepherdsville, KY
Truck Driver Institute, Christina, TN
Truck Driving Academy, Rancho Cordova, CA
United States Truck Driving School, Denver, CO
United Truck Driving School, Murfreesboro, TN
United Truck Driving School, San Diego, CA
Western Pacific Truck School, Stockton, CA
Western Truck School, West Sacramento, CA

Suppliers and Service Providers

Advanced Training Systems, St. Petersburg, FL
CDL Life, Shawnee, KS
CDL Marketing, Royal Oak, MI
Conversion Interactive Agency, Brentwood, TN
Driver iQ, Tulsa, OK
Fastport, Lowell, MA
ie Links, Phoenix, AZ
Instructional Technologies, Vancouver, WA
Lancer Insurance Company, Long Beach, NY
Mike Byrnes & Associates, Corpus Christi, TX
Paradigm Media Consultants, Fishers, IN
Paramount Capital Group, Conshohocken, PA
Partners Financial Services, Fenton, MO
Randall-Reilly Publishing, Tuscaloosa, AL
Tenstreet, LLC., Tulsa, OK
TextAim, Gilbert, AZ
Transportation Compliance Services USA, Biloxi, MI
Virage Simulation - US Operations, Port Orange, FL
WorkSTEPS, Houston, TX