

March 6, 2019

The Honorable Todd Young  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jon Tester  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Young and Senator Tester:

The undersigned organizations are pleased to support S.569, the DRIVE-Safe Act. This important legislation would help to alleviate the nationwide shortage of commercial drivers by providing younger drivers with the opportunity to enter the industry.

Seventy percent of the nation's freight is carried by commercial trucks yet as our economy strengthens, motor carriers are having difficulty finding the drivers they need to handle growing capacity. According to a recent estimate, the nation needs an additional 50,000 truck drivers immediately, a shortage that is expected to grow to more than 174,000 by 2026. In many supply chains, companies are being forced to increase prices to account for higher transportation costs. This will ultimately result in higher prices for consumers on everything from electronics to food.

While 48 states currently allow drivers to obtain a commercial driver's license at 18, they are prohibited from driving in interstate commerce until they are 21. The DRIVE-Safe Act would create a two-step apprenticeship program to allow these younger drivers to enter the industry safely. Candidates would be accompanied in the cab by experienced drivers for a total of 400 hours of on-duty time with at least 240 hours of driving time.

Trucks used in the program would be required to be outfitted with the latest safety technology including active braking collision mitigation systems, forward-facing event recording cameras, speed limiters set at 65 miles per hour or less and automatic or automatic manual transmissions.

The DRIVE-Safe Act will help our nation's freight continue to move while preserving the safety of our highway system. It will help fill desperately needed jobs and provide younger Americans with the opportunity to enter a profession where they can earn an average of \$53,000 with full benefits. We look forward to working with you to enact this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association  
American Apparel and Footwear Association  
American Bakers Association  
American Beverage Association  
American Chemistry Council  
American Coatings Association  
American Forest and Paper Association  
American Foundry Society  
American Frozen Food Institute  
American Supply Association  
American Trucking Associations  
Associated Grocers of New England  
Associated Equipment Distributors

Auto Care Association  
Brick Industry Association  
Commercial Vehicle Training Association  
Convenience Distribution Association  
Food Marketing Institute  
Foodservice Equipment Distributors Association  
Forest Resources Association  
HDDA: Heavy Duty  
Heating, Air-Conditioning, & Refrigeration Distributors International  
Intermodal Association of North America  
International Association of Plastics Distribution  
International Bottled Water Association  
International Dairy Foods Association  
International Foodservice Distributors Association  
International Warehouse Logistics Association  
National Association of Chemical Distributors  
National Association of Electrical Distributors  
National Association of Manufacturers  
National Association of Truckstop Operators  
National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors  
National Automatic Merchandising Association  
National Beer Wholesalers Association  
National Council of Chain Restaurants  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Franchisee Association  
National Grain and Feed Association  
National Grocers Association  
National Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association  
National Milk Producers Federation  
National Oilseed Processors Association  
National Potato Council  
National Private Truck Council  
National Propane Gas Association  
National Ready Mixed Concrete Association  
National Restaurant Association  
National Retail Federation  
National Waste and Recycling Association  
New England Fuel Institute  
New Hampshire Grocers Association  
Pet Industry Distributors Association  
Petroleum Marketers Association of America  
Plumbing Manufacturers International  
Portland Cement Association  
Power Transmission Distributors Association  
Retail Industry Leaders Association  
Service Station Dealers of America and Allied Trades  
SNAC International  
Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association

Textile Care Allied Trade Associations  
The Fertilizer Institute  
Tire Industry Association  
Truck Renting and Leasing Association  
Wine and Spirits Wholesalers of America  
World Millwork Alliance  
UPS  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce