

August 16, 2018

United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:

The undersigned organizations, representing a broad range of industries, strongly support H.R.6178, the HOURS Act, introduced by Congressmen Rick Crawford, Sanford Bishop and Bruce Westerman. This timely and much-needed legislation will provide narrow and targeted relief and flexibility in hours-of-service (HOS) rules for truck drivers across the country as they continue to move our nation's goods and the economy.

As trucking has adjusted to the December 18, 2017 implementation of electronic logging devices (ELDs) which record drivers' HOS, concerns have been raised by varying segments of the industry for needed flexibility. While HOS regulations are designed to provide the framework for the safe and efficient movement of goods, there has come to light the need for greater HOS flexibility to provide drivers the ability to adjust to changing road and weather conditions, congestion and sensitive truck loads. To address those concerns, the HOURS Act provides added flexibility for drivers hauling livestock and commodities, allow for an expedited split sleeper berth rulemaking process following the results of the DOT pilot program currently underway, provides uniformity in HOS exemptions, and removes burdensome paperwork requirements.

Without sacrificing safety or efficiency, the HOURS Act would benefit the trucking industry by harmonizing existing short-haul exemption rules, providing uniformity to an existing patchwork of state harvest season designations, allowing the Department of Transportation to expeditiously move forward with flexible split sleeper berth regulations, and limiting burdensome paperwork requirements for drivers and carriers. These narrowly tailored and targeted changes are not insignificant, and will improve the lives of millions of professional drivers by implementing needed flexibility and uniformity in HOS regulations.

For these reasons, we encourage your support for, and cosponsorship of, the HOURS Act, common-sense legislation that will provide greater clarity, flexibility and efficiency in the trucking industry. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration, and we look forward to working with you to resolve this important matter.

Sincerely,

Agricultural & Food Transporters Conference
Agriculture Retailers Association
Agriculture Transportation Coalition
American Bakers Association

American Beverage Association
American Chemistry Council
American Concrete Pavement Association
American Moving & Storage Association
American Sheep Industry Association
American Trucking Associations
Associated Equipment Distributors
Associated General Contractors of America
Auto Haulers Association of America
Corn Refiners Association
The Fertilizer Institute
Food Marketing Institute
Home Furnishings Association
International Foodservice Distributors Association
International Milk Haulers Association
NASSTRAC, Inc.
National Association of Chemical Distributors
National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors
National Council of Chain Restaurants
The National Grange
National Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association
National Private Truck Council
National Propane Gas Association
National Ready Mixed Concrete Association
National Restaurant Association
National Retail Federation
National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association
National Tank Truck Carriers
New England Fuel Institute
Retail Industry Leaders Association
Transportation Intermediaries Association
U.S. Poultry and Egg Association