

April 28, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

As Congress considers legislation to respond to the coronavirus pandemic and assist with economic recovery, we are writing to request Congress suspend the 12% federal excise tax (FET) on the purchase of new heavy-duty trucks and trailers until the end of 2021. As representatives of the trucking industry and other important sectors of the economy, we believe that the suspension of the FET would serve as an extremely effective and immediate policy to spur the sales of newer cleaner trucks, which would retain jobs in the trucking sector and help rebuild our economy.

Truck sales in the United States are now predicted to decline by 50% in 2020¹ due to the pandemic. In March, Class 8 truck orders dropped by 52% compared to last year.² As a result of government-ordered closures, truck manufacturing plants and truck dealers have either suspended or scaled back operations. To jump start the economy after the pandemic, a suspension of the burdensome FET, which increases the cost of new heavy-duty trucks and trailers by \$22,000 on average, would immediately spark the purchase of heavy-duty trucks and trailers. In turn, this would help save or bring back the livelihoods of the 7.8 million Americans employed in jobs related to trucking.³

In addition to saving jobs, a suspension of the FET would spur sales of today's cleaner and safer heavy-duty trucks and trailers by making them more affordable during this difficult economic time. Over the past two decades, the trucking industry has made strong environmental gains, and today's heavy-duty trucks are cleaner than ever before. Cleaner fuel and engines utilizing advanced technologies have combined to reduce nitrogen oxide emissions by 97% and particulate matter emissions by 98%. Since 2010, more fuel-efficient diesel trucks have saved 101 million barrels of crude oil and reduced CO₂ emissions by 43 million tons. Suspension of the

¹ Dey, Esha. "U.S. Truck Retail Sales May Decline 50% This Year, Citi Predicts," Bloomberg (March 2020).

² Cannon, Joseph, "Navistar joins other OEMs in delaying truck production as truck orders hit 10 year low," Commercial Carrier Journal (April 2, 2020).

³ American Trucking Association. "[Economics and Industry Data](#)." (2018).

tax would also encourage the sale of newer trucks, which have the latest safety technologies that help reduce roadway crashes and related injuries and fatalities.

During this crisis, our nation has been more dependent than ever on our trucking fleet for delivery of goods and critical medical supplies, yet the average age of a truck on the road today is almost 10 years old. We believe the suspension of the FET can help both in keeping the nation well supplied and in rebuilding America's vital trucking industry and related employment. The organizations below are united in urging Congress to suspend the FET in any upcoming coronavirus legislation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

National Organizations/Companies

American Truck Dealers – a division of the National Automobile Dealers Association
Cummins Inc.
Daimler Trucks North America
Mack Trucks
Navistar Inc.
PACCAR Inc
Volvo Trucks North America
Agility Fuel Solutions
Agriculture and Food Transporters Conference of the American Trucking Associations
Allison Transmission Inc.
American Trucking Associations
Automobile Carriers Conference of the American Trucking Associations
Baker Commodities Inc.
Central Transport LLC
Diesel Technology Forum
Eaton
Environmental Solutions Group
Hexagon Composites
Knight-Swift Transportation
McNeilus Companies, Inc.
Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association
NAFA Fleet Management Association
National Association of Chemical Distributors
National Association of Truckstop Operators
National Beer Wholesalers Association
National Industrial Transportation League
National Private Truck Council
National Ready Mixed Concrete Association
National Retail Federation
National Tank Truck Carriers
National Trailer Dealers Association
National Waste & Recycling Association
NGVAmerica

North American Renderers Association
NTEA – The Association for the Work Truck Industry
Old Dominion Freight Line, Inc.
Oshkosh Corporation
PAM Transport Services, Inc.
Recreation Vehicle Dealers Association
Republic Services, Inc.
Specialized Carriers & Rigging Association
Truck and Engine Manufacturers Association
Truck Mixer Manufacturers Bureau
Truck Renting and Leasing Association
Truck Trailer Manufacturers Association
Truckload Carriers Association
Universal Logistics Holdings, Inc.
UPS
Volumetric Mixer Manufacturers Bureau
WCA Waste
Werner Enterprises
Western States Trucking Association
Women in Trucking Association, Inc.

State and Local Organizations/Companies (HQ Location)

Alabama Trucking Association
Alaska Trucking Association
Arizona Trucking Association
California Trucking Association
Colorado Motor Carriers Association
X3CNG Colorado LLC (Colo.)
Motor Transport Association of Connecticut
Delaware Motor Transport Association
Florida Trucking Association
Peterson Industries, Inc. (Fla.)
Georgia Motor Trucking Association
Hawaii Transportation Association
Idaho Trucking Association
Illinois Trucking Association
Best Way Disposal (Ind., Mich. and Ky.)
Decatur Hills Landfill (Ind.)
Indiana Motor Truck Association
Randolph Farms (Ind.)
South Side Landfill (Ind.)
Iowa Motor Truck Association
McLaughlin Family Companies (Iowa)
New Way Trucks (Iowa)
Scranton Manufacturing, Inc. (Iowa)
Sparta Waste Services (Iowa)

Kansas Motor Carriers Association
Kentucky Trucking Association
Louisiana Motor Transport Association
Maine Motor Transport Association
Maryland Motor Truck Association
Trucking Association of Massachusetts
Michigan Trucking Association
Minnesota Trucking Association
Mississippi Trucking Association
Missouri Trucking Association
Motor Carriers of Montana
Nebraska Trucking Association
Nevada Trucking Association
New Hampshire Motor Transport Association
New Jersey Motor Truck Association
New Mexico Trucking Association
Trucking Association of New York
North Carolina Trucking Association
North Dakota Motor Carriers Association
Ohio Trucking Association
Rumpke Consolidated Companies, Inc. (Ohio)
Oklahoma Trucking Association
Oregon Trucking Associations
Pennsylvania Motor Truck Association
Rhode Island Trucking Association
South Carolina Trucking Association
South Dakota Trucking Association
Tennessee Trucking Association
Texas Trucking Association
AAL Enterprises (Utah)
Ogden Financial Group (Utah)
Ogden Polar Group (Utah)
Utah Trucking Association
Vermont Truck & Bus Association
Virginia Trucking Association
Washington Trucking Associations
West Virginia Trucking Association
Wisconsin Motor Carriers Association
Manitowoc Disposal and Recycling (Wis.)
Wyoming Trucking Association

cc:

Hon. Charles Grassley, Chairman, Senate Committee on Finance
Hon. Ron Wyden, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Finance
Hon. Richard Neal, Chairman, House Committee on Ways and Means

Hon. Kevin Brady, Ranking Member, House Committee on Ways and Means
Hon. John Barrasso, Chairman, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
Hon. Thomas Carper, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
Hon. Peter DeFazio, Chairman, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Hon. Sam Graves, Ranking Member, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Hon. Roger Wicker, Chairman, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Hon. Maria Cantwell, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Hon. Frank Pallone, Chairman, House Committee on Energy and Commerce
Hon. Greg Walden, Ranking Member, House Committee on Energy and Commerce