

November 14, 2017

Ambassador Robert E. Lighthizer
United States Trade Representative
Office of the United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20508

RE: Support for NAFTA's Trucking Provisions

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations representing manufacturers, farmers and agribusinesses, wholesalers, retailers, importers, exporters, distributors, and transportation and logistics providers that utilize truck transportation to haul our products across the U.S. and Mexican border, we strongly urge you **not to eliminate** NAFTA's trucking provisions in an updated agreement. We depend on the trucking industry, both American and Mexican, to safely and efficiently haul our products in both countries. Eliminating NAFTA trucking, including any investment protections, would have a long-term negative impact on our businesses.

We depend on efficient border crossings to remain competitive. Increasing trade in both directions is putting more and more pressure on our southern border land ports. Permitting Mexican carriers to haul freight beyond the border zones will help alleviate some of the congestion at the border, creating more efficiency through the system. By having these trucks drive further into border states, it will alleviate truck traffic out of the commercial border zones.

Mexican carriers and drivers are not permitted to haul domestic U.S. freight, so they are not competing with U.S. carriers and drivers. In fact, they often work in tandem with their U.S. motor carrier partners. Currently, it is a small, but important way of making sure our industries and North America remain competitive in the world market.

The Mexican trucking program is not an open-door policy that permits any and all Mexican trucking companies to haul freight beyond the border zones. Mexican carriers undergo a case-by-case review process before the U.S. Department of Transportation grants them authority to operate. These carriers must adhere to all U.S. laws and regulations. And, most importantly, Mexican carriers operating beyond the commercial border zones have an excellent safety record.

We urge you to keep NAFTA's trucking provisions in a NAFTA 2.0.

Sincerely,

Agricultural & Food Transporters Conference
Agricultural Retailers Association
Agriculture Transportation Coalition
Air & Expedited Motor Carriers Association
(AEMCA)
Airforwarders Association
Almond Alliance of California
Amcot

American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA)
American Association of Exporters and Importers
American Cotton Shippers Association
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Feed Industry Association
American Frozen Food Institute
American Home Furnishings Alliance (AHFA)
American Import Shippers Association

American Potato Trade Alliance (APTA)
 American Pyrotechnics Association
 Association of Food Industries
 Auto Care Association
 Auto Haulers Association of America (AHAA)
 California Business Properties Association
 California Farm Bureau Federation
 California Fresh Fruit Association
 California Retailers Association
 California Trucking Association
 CAWA – Representing the Automotive Parts Industry
 Consumer Technology Association
 Corn Refiners Association
 Distilled Spirits Council of the United States
 Express Association of America (EAA)
 Fashion Accessories Shippers Association (FASA)
 Footwear Distributors & Retailers of America (FDRA)
 Frozen Potato Products Institute
 Gemini Shippers Association
 Glass Packaging Institute (GPI)
 Global Cold Chain Alliance
 Green Coffee Association
 Halloween Industries Association
 Harbor Trucking Association
 Hardwood Federation
 Home Furnishings Association
 Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.
 Intermodal Motor Carriers Conference (IMCC)
 International Wood Products Association
 Juice Products Association
 Juvenile Product Manufacturers Association
 Meat Import Council of America
 Michigan Agri-Business Association
 Michigan Bean Shippers
 Missouri Retailers Association
 Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association
 National Association of Beverage Importers
 National Association of Egg Farmers
 National Cattlemen’s Beef Association
 National Confectioners Association
 National Cotton Council
 National Council of Chain Restaurants
 National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
 National Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of America (NCBFAA)
 National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)
 National Foreign Trade Council
 National Grain and Feed Association
 National Industrial Transportation League
 National Onion Association
 National Potato Council
 National Pork Producers Council
 National Restaurant Association
 National Retail Federation
 National Shippers Strategic Transportation Council (NASSTRAC)
 National Turkey Federation
 New York/New Jersey Foreign Freight Forwarders & Brokers
 North American Export Grain Association
 North American Meat Institute
 North American Shippers Association, Inc.
 North American Strategy for Competitiveness
 Oregon Dairy Farmers Association
 Pet Food Institute
 Produce Marketing Association
 Retail Industry Leaders Association
 SNAC International
 Snowsports Industries America
 The Expedite Alliance of North America (TEANA)
 The Fertilizer Institute
 The Toy Association
 Texas International Produce Association
 Texas Retailers Association
 Transportation Intermediaries Association
 Transportation Loss Prevention & Security Council
 Travel Goods Association (TGA)
 U.S. Apple Association
 U.S. Chamber of Commerce
 U.S. Fashion Industry Association
 U.S. Hide, Skin and Leather Association
 United Fresh Produce Association
 United States Council for International Business
 USA Poultry & Egg Export Council
 Vinyl Institute
 Washington Farm Bureau
 Washington Retail Association
 Washington State Potato Commission
 Western Growers
 Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of America