

March 30, 2020

U.S. Governors  
U.S. Lieutenant Governors  
State Transportation Directors  
State Agriculture Directors and Commissioners

Dear State Official:

RE: Harmonization of Increased Truck Weights on U.S. and Interstate Highways

The undersigned organizations thank you, your staff and your state's employees for the countless hours of work and dedication you are collectively contributing to address the unprecedented COVID-19 crisis.

The farmers, ranchers, food and beverage manufacturers, processors, package suppliers and agricultural product marketers that make up our memberships are dedicated to providing the safe, abundant and affordable food and feed required to ensure our country stays healthy and fed during this time.

We commend the many states that have increased truck weights on some highways within their jurisdictions. Increased truck weights improve the food industry's efficiency and capacity to deliver essential food, feed and key ingredients which sustain our food supply chain. This will become more critical if the availability of truck drivers is impacted adversely by COVID-19.

Congress has acted on the need for maintaining and enhancing truck capacity by including Section 22003 of the "Coronavirus Aid Relief, and Economic Security Act," signed into law last week, which expressly clarifies the U.S. Department of Transportation's authority to allow states to increase truck weight limits during the COVID-19 emergency.

Therefore, we respectfully ask that your state, if it has not already done so, increase truck weights on all U.S. highways and Federal Interstate Highways within its jurisdiction to a minimum of 88,000 pounds—while respecting bridge and posted seasonal or special road and/or local limitations.

Establishing a minimum truck weight limit of 88,000 pounds would ensure that a minimum harmonized weight exists across the country and help protect against essential shipments adhering to this common increase from being impeded at state borders.

Thank you in advance for your timely consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

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

American Beverage Association  
American Cotton Producers  
American Cotton Shippers Association  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Frozen Food Institute  
American Honey Producers Association  
American Seed Trade Association  
American Sheep Industry Association  
American Soybean Association  
American Sugar Alliance  
Consumer Brands Association  
Corn Refiners Association  
Cotton Growers Warehouse Association  
Cotton Warehouse Association of America  
Cottonseed and Feed Association  
Forest Resources Association  
Growth Energy  
Hardwood Federation  
International Dairy Foods Association  
Institute of Shortening and Edible Oils  
Leather and Hide Council of America  
Meat Import Council of America  
National Alliance of Forest Owners  
National Aquaculture Association  
National Association of Wheat Growers  
National Cattlemen's Beef Association  
National Chicken Council  
National Cotton Council  
National Cotton Ginners Association  
National Cottonseed Products Association  
National Council of Textile Organizations  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Farmers Union  
National Grain and Feed Association  
National Grange  
National Milk Producers Federation  
National Oilseed Processors Association  
National Pasta Association  
National Pork Producers Council  
National Potato Council  
National Sorghum Producers  
National Turkey Federation  
North American Meat Institute  
North American Millers' Association  
North American Renderers Association  
Panhandle Peanut Growers Association  
Pet Food Institute  
Southwest Council of Agribusiness

Soy Transportation Coalition  
The Fertilizer Institute  
United Fresh Produce Association  
USA Rice  
U.S. Custom Harvesters, Inc.  
U.S. Poultry & Egg Association  
Western Growers Association  
Western Peanut Growers Association