

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