



Safer Highways and Increased Performance for Interstate Trucking (SHIP IT) Act

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Safer Highways and Increased Performance for Interstate Trucking (SHIP IT) Act (H.R.471) is a bipartisan bill that addresses truck labor shortages and supply chain issues for delivering freight by increasing shipping capacity, lessening burdens on truck drivers and providing incentives to recruit and retain new drivers. Disruptions in our trucking supply chain continue to drive up costs and create uncertainty for American businesses. We need to recruit, train and retain truck drivers to keep our supply chain moving, while also updating best practices to improve trucking to fit our modern economy.

America is experiencing an 80,000-truck driver shortage, which has a negative ripple effect for every part of the supply chain. Meanwhile, the median age of the truck driver in the industry is between 51 and 52-years old. Further, there is only one parking space available for every 11 semi-trucks on the road—yet there is a need for even more trucks to deliver freight.

The SHIP IT Act provides commonsense trucking reforms that:

- Recruits new truck drivers to enter the workforce and retains existing truck drivers through targeted tax credits for the next 2 years, offering \$10,000 for new drivers and \$7,500 for existing drivers.
- Allows truck drivers to apply for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act grants to cover the costs of driver schooling.
- Makes it easier for people to become truck drivers by streamlining the CDL process, making it easier for states and third parties to administer CDL tests.
- Expands access to truck parking and rest facilities for commercial truck drivers.
- Allows states to opt into pilot programs that permit trucks with at least six axles to weigh up to 91,000 pounds on interstate highways.
- Provides the Secretary of Transportation the authority to relax truck weight limits during emergencies to help with relief efforts.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Pass H.R. 471 – SHIP IT Act

Address the nation's supply chain crisis and increase the number of available truck drivers by passing the Safer Highways and Increased Performance for Interstate Trucking (SHIP IT) Act.

REQUEST

NLBMDA urges lawmakers to cosponsor and pass the SHIP IT Act (H.R.471). The bill is sponsored by Reps. Dusty Johnson (R-SD) and Jim Costa (D-CA).