



AMERICANS
FOR MODERN
TRANSPORTATION

April 25, 2019

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
United States House of Representatives
Chairman, U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2251 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves
United States House of Representatives
Ranking Member, U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2164 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

Thank you for reaching out for suggestions from stakeholders in the transportation industry and for your leadership in the effort to improve our nation's infrastructure and safety on roadways. As you know, the 116th Congress has a unique opportunity to lay the foundation for a modern American infrastructure system, and we're encouraged that the House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure has been full steam ahead on debating solutions. Infrastructure reform requires smart investments, consistent with the fundamental federal role, and leveraging resources from all levels of government and the private sector. We urge the Committee to support these types of investments and commonsense policies that will enhance safety as well as spur economic growth and job creation.

As you know, years of underinvestment and a lack of attention to the nation's infrastructure has left American families in harm's way, spurred economic inefficiencies, and put undue stress on our environment. To fully deliver long-term results, policymakers must examine ways to leverage technologies and efficiencies developed by the private sector that improve safety on roadways, increase efficiency in commerce and travel, and reduce environmental impacts.

The Americans for Modern Transportation Coalition (AMT) has identified one such solution: a modest five-foot increase to twin 28' trailers. At no cost to taxpayers, Congress can act to modernize trucking equipment and increase the national twin trailer standard from 28 feet to 33 feet. Such a policy change will bring to our nation immediate and meaningful improvements:

- *Improved Safety on Our Roads* – The reduction in the number of trucks on our roads would have tangible safety benefits. Additionally, twin 33' trailers perform better than many other truck configurations on four critical safety measures, including stability and roll over, and have crash rates that are

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among the lowest in trucking, and among all types of motor vehicles. Research shows that the adoption of twin 33' trailers would result in 4,500 fewer truck accidents annually.

- *Reduced Congestion* – The efficiency gains from twin 33' trailers would mean fewer trucks on the road and 53.2 million hours saved due to less congestion.
- *Economic Benefits* – Twin 33' trailers can move the same amount of freight with 18% fewer truck trips, allowing consumers and businesses to realize \$2.6 billion annually in lower shipping costs and quicker delivery times.
- *Longer Life Cycle for Our Roads and Bridges* – The implementation of twin 33' trailers will result in 3.1 billion fewer truck miles traveled each year, greatly reducing the impact on roads and bridges.
- *Environmental Gains* – The efficiency gains from the adoption of twin 33' trailers would equate to 255 million fewer gallons of fuel and 2.9 million fewer tons of CO2 emissions.

The private sector continues to make investments in our workforce, new technologies, and existing equipment to ensure that our fleets are as safe, efficient and sustainable as possible. As you begin work on infrastructure policy in this Congress, we urge you to consider commonsense solutions such as modernizing the national twin trailer standard from 28 feet to 33 feet that will improve the efficiency and safety of truck operations across the nation's congested freight network, help alleviate the freight industry's ongoing capacity and workforce shortages, and benefit taxpayers and travelers.

We look forward to continuing to work with the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to seize this opportunity to usher the country into a new era of safety and infrastructure investment.

Sincerely,

Randy Mullett
Executive Director, The Americans for Modern Transportation Coalition

cc: Members of the U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure