



A M E R I C A N S
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T R A N S P O R T A T I O N

May 7, 2018

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
United States House of Representatives
Chairman, Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing,
and Urban Development and Related Agencies
440 Cannon House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Diaz-Balart,

As Congress considers legislation to update our current infrastructure system, the undersigned organizations call for policies to improve vehicle safety, reduce congestion, lower fuel consumption, and address freight capacity issues. We urge you to include provisions modernizing the national twin trailer standard from 28 feet to 33 feet in the FY 2019 Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development (THUD) Appropriations bill.

The benefits of this policy change would immediately improve operations across the nation's freight network. First, the safety of twin 33-foot trailers is proven, and research has shown that twin 33-foot trailers are more stable and less likely to rollover than twin 28-foot trailers. Second, twin 33-foot trailers will reduce congestion. Without any changes to federal weight restrictions, authorizing twin 33-foot trailers to operate on the national highway network – only where twin 28-foot trailers currently operate – would result in 3.1 billion fewer vehicle miles traveled, 4,500 fewer annual truck crashes, and 53.2 million hours saved due to less congestion. Third, this creative capacity solution would also reduce wear and tear on existing infrastructure.

The need for this policy change is urgent. The U.S. population has almost doubled in the past 50 years and there are 75 million more vehicles on the road today than there were in 1990. Domestically, e-commerce sales have grown from \$42 billion in 2002 to \$291.8 billion in 2016. In addition, the Department of Transportation forecasts a 45 percent increase in freight volumes by 2045 – further exacerbating the freight industry's ongoing capacity and workforce shortages.

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America must deploy innovative solutions to these critical issues that threaten U.S. economic growth and competitiveness. A new national standard for twin 33-foot trailers will add instant capacity while reducing congestion and making the most safe and efficient use of the roads and highways we travel today.

We respectfully request that you include provisions allowing twin 33-foot trailers in the FY 2019 THUD Appropriations bill.

Sincerely,



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