

IME

institute of makers of explosives

The safety and security institute of the commercial explosives industry since 1913

September 19, 2023

The Honorable Abigail Spanberger
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Gallagher
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for the *Strengthening Supply Chains Through Truck Driver Incentives Act* (H.R. 2450)

Dear Representatives Spanberger and Gallagher:

On behalf of The Institute of Makers of Explosives (IME), I am writing to thank you for introducing the *Strengthening Supply Chains Through Truck Driver Incentives Act of 2023* (H.R. 2450) and to voice support for this important legislation. We believe this legislation will help alleviate the immense shortage of qualified Commercial Driver License (CDL) drivers by providing incentives to attract and retain CDL drivers and ensure that essential products can be safely and efficiently transported across the country.

The Institute of Makers of Explosives represents manufacturers of commercial explosives and other companies that provide related products and services to the industry. It is our mission to ensure the safe and secure manufacture, transport, distribution and use of commercial explosives. Manufacturers of commercial explosives contribute \$4 billion annually to the U.S. economy and employ nearly 10,000 workers in the United States. Our products are essential to energy production, communications, technology manufacturing, highway and building construction, the healthcare delivery system, agriculture, and the production of nearly all metals and mineral products. If you use or consume it, explosives make it possible.

The commercial explosives industry relies on all modes of transportation, including rail, truck, water, and air, to move our products safely and securely, not just nationwide but around the world. Like other industries, transportation-induced disruptions to the supply chain can lead not only to challenges within our industry, but also delays in significant infrastructure projects like those authorized as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, due to the inability to move our products in a timely fashion. These delays can lead to increased project costs and can even create potential safety hazards. By ensuring a strong and qualified trucking workforce, we can help to promote economic growth and national security.

Passage of H.R. 2450 will provide a \$7,500 tax credit for qualified licensed commercial truck drivers and up to \$10,000 in tax credits for those registered in trucking apprenticeships, helping to ensure we have enough drivers to keep our supply chain moving.

Finally, while IME supports the legislation, we also believe that there is a need to include Class B CDL drivers in the program as these drivers play an equally important role in supporting our nation's supply chains. Class B CDL drivers are responsible for transporting hazardous materials, such as explosives, and they require specialized training and certifications to do so safely. By including these individuals in this program, we can help to ensure that our supply chain remains safe and efficient for all involved.

Thank you again for your efforts on this important issue. We stand ready to work with you to move H.R. 2450, with the inclusion of Class B CDL holders, across the finish line. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please contact me or Colby Sholler, IME's Senior Director of Government Affairs at csholler@ime.org.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Clark Mica', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

J. Clark Mica
President

Cc: The Honorable Jason Smith, Chairman, House Committee on Ways and Means
The Honorable Richard Neal, Ranking Member, House Committee on Ways and Means
The Honorable Mike Kelly, Chairman, House Subcommittee on Tax
The Honorable Mike Thompson, Ranking Member, House Subcommittee on Tax