

IME

institute of makers of explosives

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

July 30, 2024

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chair
Committee on Commerce, Science
and Transportation
United States Senate
254 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science
and Transportation
United States Senate
215 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Cantwell and Ranking Member Cruz,

On behalf of the Institute of Makers of Explosives (IME), I am writing to you in support of S. 3959, *the Transportation Security Screening Modernization Act*. Thank you for your leadership in bringing this important legislation to mark-up. This bill is an important step towards reducing the duplicative and burdensome background checks and their associated fees essential transportation workers must secure. Importantly, this legislation will not reduce safety or security.

IME is a trade association founded in 1913 with the mission to promote the safe and secure manufacture, transport, distribution and use of commercial explosives. The commercial explosives industry which includes manufacturers, distributors and users, contributes more than \$19 billion annually to the U.S. economy and creates more than 60,000 jobs. Commercial explosives are essential to energy production and distribution of both traditional (oil and gas) and renewable sources, and the production of nearly all metals and critical minerals.

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. A Hazmat Endorsement (HME) is needed to transport commercial explosives and our members take great pride in promoting safety. Many of our workers must also obtain a Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC). Through the *Transportation Security Screening Modernization Act*, valid background checks could be applied to more than one TSA security threat assessment program, specifically the TWIC and HME. This reduction in duplicative background checks and fees would be beneficial to both government and individuals. It would also help address the well-documented labor shortage in the transportation industry.

IME stands ready to work with you to advance this important piece of legislation and encourages the Committee to support it.

Sincerely,



J. Clark Mica
President

Cc: Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation