

June 3, 2021

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Chairman
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chairwoman
Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen DeFazio and Cantwell and Ranking Members Graves and Wicker:

The undersigned organizations strongly support H.R. 3310 and S. 1681, the *Promoting Service in Transportation Act*. We are committed to building a transportation workforce that propels America's future growth, and this legislation would accomplish that goal by authorizing the Department of Transportation to develop a series of targeted broadcast, digital and print public service announcements to promote career opportunities and improve diversity in America's transportation workforce.

The COVID-19 pandemic has reminded us how vital transportation is to the medical supply chain, keeping our grocery stores stocked, and the American economy in general. Trucks move more than 71% of the nation's freight by weight and continue to play a critical role in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, most recently through the delivery of vaccines to communities throughout this country. General aviation, which employs more than 1.2 million workers, delivers medical supplies and connects thousands of communities not served by commercial airlines. Finally, the U.S.-flag maritime sector provides critical support of our national defense, strategic sealift, and disaster response objectives.

The COVID-19 pandemic has provided a momentary reprieve from the transportation workforce shortage; however, as recovery continues, the demand for qualified workers will return, and the workforce shortage will yet again destabilize transportation operations. In the trucking industry, there is a shortage of nearly 61,000 drivers. Women are also underrepresented in the profession, making up less than 7% of drivers. For the maritime industry, the challenge is an aging workforce, where the average worker is 54-years old, and there are not enough new employees to meet increasing demand. Lastly, the aviation industry will have a global demand of at least 34,000 pilots by 2025, with women making up only 5% of pilots, while other underrepresented groups make up less than 10% for both men and women.

The *Promoting Service in Transportation Act* presents an opportunity to highlight for all Americans that transportation careers are well-paying jobs that embrace technology and offer a bright future. With continued growth and demand for STEM workers, America must remain competitive, and this legislation would start a new dialogue about reliable transportation careers.

We strongly support H.R. 3310 and S. 1681, the *Promoting Service in Transportation Act*, which will provide tools to recruit the next-generation transportation workforce. The legislation is critically important to the future of transportation and will drive America's economic recovery and prosperity- we urge you to advance it expeditiously.

Sincerely,

Aeronautical Repair Station Association
Air Line Pilots Association
Aircraft Electronics Association
Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association
Amalgamated Transit Union

American Trucking Associations
American Association of Airport Executives
American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association
Association of Flight Attendants
Association of Professional Flight Attendants
Aviation Technician Education Council
Cargo Airline Association
Chamber of Shipping of America
Commercial Vehicle Training Association
General Aviation Manufacturers Association
Helicopter Association International
International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers
International Foodservice Distributors Association
National Air Traffic Controllers Association
National Air Transportation Association
National Business Aviation Association
National Private Truck Council
NetJets Association of Shared Aircraft Pilots
Next Generation in Trucking Association
Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association
Professional Aviation Safety Specialists
Regional Airline Association
The TransForce Group
Transport Workers Union
Truckload Carriers Association
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Women in Aviation
Women In Trucking Association