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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6125

WEBSITE: <http://commerce.senate.gov>

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May 4, 2020

Mr. Chris Spear
President and Chief Executive Officer
American Trucking Association
430 First Street SE, Suite 100
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Mr. Ian Jefferies
President and Chief Executive Officer
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425 Third Street SW
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Mr. Chuck Baker
President
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Mr. Todd Spencer
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Mr. Chris Connor
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Mr. Alex Oehler
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Mr. Mike Sommers
President and Chief Executive Officer
American Petroleum Institute
200 Massachusetts Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20001

Ms. Cindy Cutrera
President
Inland Rivers, Ports, and Terminals
One Confluence Way
East Alton, IL 62024

Dear Mr. Spear, Mr. Jefferies, Mr. Baker, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Connor, Mr. Oehler, Mr. Sommers,
and Ms. Cutrera:

The COVID-19 crisis has brought serious new challenges and hardships to our nation. As these difficult times continue to affect our lives, the resilience and resourcefulness shown by our frontline workers has been remarkable. They are providing critical care, services, goods, and supplies to the people and communities that need them. These contributions are seen across industries, and the surface transportation sector is no exception. Our truck drivers, railroad workers, port operators, pipeline engineers, and many others are working to ensure that our freight transportation network and critical infrastructure continue to deliver during this unprecedented time.

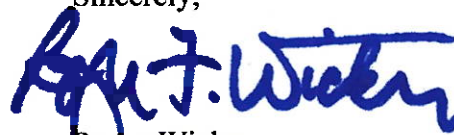
As the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has stated, “Functioning critical infrastructure is imperative during the response to the COVID-19 emergency for both public health and safety as well as community well-being.”¹ Indeed, our communities rely upon a functioning freight and supply system to provide food, pharmaceuticals, fuel, water treatment materials, and other essential goods, commodities, and equipment. The COVID-19 crisis only underscores the need to continue supporting our surface transportation and freight networks, potentially in new and different ways.

In this spirit, I would ask that you respond to the questions below to provide additional information to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation regarding the impacts of COVID-19 on our surface transportation system and critical supply chains, and the industry’s response to these challenges. Your firsthand insights and experiences can help to inform how we learn from this situation and respond to it, as well as future crises that may arise.

- What impacts have your members seen from COVID-19 on our transportation networks and supply chains, and how have they responded to these impacts?
- What are your expectations for how freight transportation networks or the supply chain may continue to be impacted in the near term? What impacts do you anticipate in the long term?
- How have critical infrastructure employees been affected during the COVID-19 crisis while performing their duties, and what steps have your members taken to protect them?
- The U.S. Department of Transportation has a number of authorities that can be utilized to respond to extraordinary and unanticipated events. How has the use of these authorities affected your members during the COVID-19 crisis, and are additional authorities needed to provide additional support to the transportation sector in unforeseen circumstances?

I look forward to working with each of you to ensure America’s transportation and freight networks continue to provide essential goods throughout our country while keeping our frontline workers safe and secure.

Sincerely,



Roger Wicker
Chair

¹ U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency, Advisory Memorandum on Identification of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers During COVID-19 Response, March 28, 2020, available at https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/Version_3.0_CISA_Guidance_on_Essential_Critical_Infrastructure_Workers_1.pdf.