

H.R. 6104

The time has come for Congress to improve highway safety by addressing the truck parking crisis



“Truck parking shortages are a national safety concern”

In 2015, the Federal Highway Administration’s (FHWA) Jason’s Law survey report recognized the lack of truck parking had become a serious highway safety concern. Unfortunately, the problem has only worsened since then. States and local communities across the U.S. are struggling to maintain existing capacity, let alone keep pace with increasing demand. Today, professional drivers experience truck parking shortages in every corner of the country and the problem will continue to get worse.

The time to act is now. Congress must improve highway safety by addressing the truck parking crisis. **H.R. 6104, the Truck Parking Safety Improvement Act**, important legislation introduced by Rep. Mike Bost (IL-12) and Rep. Angie Craig (MN-02), would dedicate existing highway funding to projects that expand truck parking capacity. Absent federal investment, shortages will only become more severe, further decreasing safety for all highway users.

Safety Concerns for Truckers

Professional drivers regularly encounter difficulty accessing safe parking, especially during times of high demand. Surveys conducted by the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association reveal most truckers have been forced to drive beyond the point where they feel safe and alert simply because they could not find a place to park. This not only jeopardizes their own safety, but also the well-being of the motoring public with whom they share the road. Truckers are commonly placed in no-win situations where they must decide to park in an unsafe or illegal location – such as a vacant lot - or violate federal hours-of-service regulations by continuing to search for a safer and legal alternative.

Safety Concerns for the Driving Public

Forcing truckers to spend excessive amounts of time searching for parking is a serious safety concern for all highway users, but the current crisis has created additional hazards for the motoring public. As a last resort, drivers who are unable to find adequate parking reluctantly park in unsafe locations, such as the shoulders of highways and interstate entry and exit ramps. This creates heightened safety risks for all motorists and presents law enforcement with the dilemma of allowing a tired trucker to rest in a dangerous location or ordering them to relocate when they are out of hours.

What’s the Solution?

Federal investment in the expansion of trucking parking capacity is the key. H.R. 6104, the Truck Parking Safety Improvement Act, would establish a competitive discretionary grant program and dedicate hundreds of millions of dollars in existing highway safety programs funding for truck parking projects across the country. With a focus on increasing capacity, H.R. 6104 would provide funding for the construction of new rest areas and truck parking facilities, while also helping public entities convert existing spaces – such as inspection sites, weigh stations and closed rest areas – into truck parking locations.