



**Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association, Inc.**

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November 24, 2020

U.S. Department of Transportation Transition Team  
President-elect Joe Biden  
Washington, DC

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Todd Spencer. I am President and CEO of the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association (OOIDA), a trucking trade association based in Grain Valley, MO, that represents more than 150,000 small-business truckers nationwide. The purpose of this letter is to notify President-elect Joe Biden of my interest to serve as the next Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA).

I started working at OOIDA in 1981 but my trucking experience dates back to 1974, which is when I first started driving a truck. Needless to say, trucking has changed quite a bit over the last 50 years. I have been around for all of it, which includes the time period when the Interstate Commerce Commission and the Federal Highway Administration's Office of Motor Carrier were responsible for overseeing the trucking industry.

My message to Congress in recent years has been that trucking is dysfunctional. Some of this dysfunction is a result of trucking regulations that have nothing to do with highway safety, many of which are mandated by Congress. They are often promoted and/or promulgated by people who have little or no industry experience and/or by people who have no real understanding of the actual impact these regulations have on big trucks and those who operate them.

The system we have in place now simply does not work. We have never had more regulations than we do today, and we have never had more enforcement of or compliance with those regulations, yet highway safety continues to trend in the wrong direction. This is because regulations often exclude input or direct involvement from those behind the wheel of a truck, and they almost never reflect the diverse operational nature of the trucking industry.

I know what it is like to make a living behind the wheel of a truck. I still hold a CDL. I have been involved with FMCSA, its predecessor agencies, and numerous federal advisory committees for decades. I have testified before Congress, I have had plenty of meetings with lawmakers and their staff, and I am exceptionally familiar with how Capitol Hill works. I enjoy working with my industry peers, both in the public and private sectors, and I am always willing to work with anyone for the greater good of the trucking industry and highway safety.

Representing our nation's small-business truckers has been my life's work. I still aspire to do this for many years to come, but sometimes we are compelled to make a difference in other ways. FMCSA's primary mission is to reduce crashes, injuries, and fatalities involving large trucks and buses. I am uniquely qualified to lead the agency in that direction.

Thank you for your consideration of my interest to serve as Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. Please contact me directly at (816) 229-5791 or [todd\\_spencer@ooida.com](mailto:todd_spencer@ooida.com) if there is anything more that you need from me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd Spencer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "T".

Todd Spencer  
President and CEO  
OOIDA