



Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association

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April 21, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

President Biden's American Jobs Plan represents an opportunity to address infrastructure issues that have been neglected for far too long. As you and the rest of President's Administration consider what investments to make, we ask that you take bold action to address a highway safety problem that is a challenge for America's truckers – the nationwide shortage of truck parking.

The lack of safe truck parking is a national safety crisis, documented as far back as the 1990s. A lack of parking makes it challenging for truckers to rest when they are tired, makes it difficult to comply with hours of service regulations, and often forces them to park in hazardous locations. This creates safety issues not only for truckers, but for the motoring public as well. OOIDA has been working to address this growing problem in a meaningful way for a long time, but so far we've not been able to get much more than studies and reports telling us what we already know – more capacity is needed.

USDOT released the results of its updated 2019 Jason's Law Survey in December 2020. The survey found that truck parking shortages are still a major problem in every state and region, and that the problem continues to worsen. As the economy rebounds and you work with Congress to make significant investments in infrastructure, we know that there will be an even greater strain on truck parking capacity. If we are going to fully address this safety issue, we need something to jumpstart the effort!

The Truck Parking Safety Improvement Act (H.R. 2187) is bipartisan legislation that would dedicate hundreds of millions of dollars for the expansion of truck parking capacity. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Peter DeFazio and Ranking Member Sam Graves have recognized the importance of addressing this issue, and each of them included provisions similar to H.R. 2187 in their respective highway bills last year. There is also broad support for this legislation from industry, law enforcement, and safety groups. There are very few trucking issues where you will find this type of comprehensive stakeholder agreement.

While Congress works on highway reauthorization legislation, we know that President Biden is putting together the American Jobs Plan to make a significant investment in our infrastructure. Nobody can predict the future, and that's especially true in politics. But it seems that President Biden's infrastructure proposal has a strong chance of being signed into law.

Therefore, we're asking you to include dedicated money for truck parking in the Administration's infrastructure proposal. It is far past time that the federal government make a significant investment in addressing the truck parking shortage, and the American Jobs Plan is one of the best opportunities we have seen to take meaningful action.

Dedicating funding for truck parking would directly help our nation's truck drivers, and the inclusion of this proposal would demonstrate President Biden's support for hard-working Americans. For essential workers who have worked throughout the pandemic, making their day-to-day work safer and easier is the least that you could do for them. Investment in truck parking would make a tremendous difference in the lives of those that can't find a safe place to park on a regular basis. It's something that most people take for granted, but in trucking the struggle is real.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd Spencer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Todd Spencer
President & CEO
Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association, Inc.