

Congress of the United States

Washington, D.C. 20515

July 20, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James E. Clyburn
Majority Whip

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal
Chairman, House Ways and Means
Committee

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader Hoyer, Majority Whip Clyburn, and Chairman Neal:

Thank you for your leadership in ensuring our nation has the resources needed to protect our citizens against the health and economic crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic. During this time, the domestic trucking industry has played a critical role in ensuring the delivery of vital medical supplies and essential consumer goods nationwide. Like other important industries that employ millions of Americans, the trucking industry has been impacted by the severe economic consequences of the pandemic. To ensure this essential industry can more quickly recover, and to save jobs in the trucking industry, we urge you to temporarily suspend the 12% federal excise tax (FET) on heavy-duty trucks and trailers in future coronavirus recovery legislation.

During this unprecedented crisis, truck sales have plummeted below 50% of prior year sales. Major truck and trailer investments are being delayed and deferred. Truck factories and showrooms have been closed, and thousands of employees have been furloughed. Immediate relief that extends until the end of 2021 is essential to supporting the workers in this industry. As a targeted, temporary stimulus measure, we urge that this relief be provided without hurting the already strained Highway Trust Fund.

The FET on heavy-duty trucks, first implemented to help fund World War I, is hitting truck sales hard during this pandemic. At 12%, this tax has grown to become one of the highest percentage excise taxes and adds approximately \$21,000 to a vehicle's cost. In addition to the positive impact a suspension will have on the industry and its workers, the FET causes truck owners to delay upgrading to safer, more fuel-efficient equipment. This equipment has the latest emissions control technology and life-saving features, including automatic emergency braking and lane departure warning. Suspending the FET will therefore speed adoption of the newest environmental and safety technologies.

Suspension of the 12% FET on new heavy duty-trucks and trailers during this critical time could help fleets purchase new trucks and trailers, support U.S. truck and trailer manufacturing,

supplier, and dealership jobs, and advance our goals of improving highway safety and reducing emissions.

We urge you to suspend the FET until the end of 2021 in upcoming coronavirus legislation as the best and fastest way to help save or restore trucking-related jobs and jumpstart the economic recovery of this vital sector.

Sincerely,



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress

Additional Signers:

2. David Trone
3. Vicente Gonzalez
4. Ed Perlmutter
5. Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
6. David Scott
7. Rep. Marc A. Veasey
8. Henry Cuellar
9. Collin C. Peterson
10. Danny K. Davis
11. Tim Ryan
12. Joyce Beatty
13. Lori Trahan
14. Anthony Brindisi
15. Lisa Blunt Rochester
16. Susan Wild
17. Haley M. Stevens
18. Stacey E. Plaskett
19. Denny Heck
20. Tom O'Halleran
21. Anthony G. Brown
22. Kurt Schrader
23. Abby Finkenauer
24. Dave Loebsack
25. Angie Craig
26. Mike Doyle
27. Joe Cunningham
28. Ben McAdams
29. Jared Golden
30. TJ Cox
31. Josh Gottheimer
32. Thomas R. Suozzi
33. Bobby L. Rush
34. Adam Smith
35. Terri A. Sewell
36. Cindy Axne
37. Filemon Vela
38. Rick Larsen
39. Marcy Kaptur
40. Debbie Dingell
41. Ron Kind
42. Joe Courtney
43. Madeleine Dean
44. Bill Pascrell, Jr.
45. C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
46. Daniel W. Lipinski
47. Brian Higgins
48. Alcee L. Hastings
49. Kathleen M. Rice
50. Chellie Pingree
51. Tony Cárdenas
52. Ann McLane Kuster
53. J. Luis Correa
54. Alma S. Adams
55. Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.