

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 23, 2021

Meera Joshi  
Deputy Administrator  
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue Southeast  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Deputy Administrator Joshi:

I am writing in reference to the new Entry-Level Driver Training (ELDT) requirements for which a compliance deadline has been set for February 7, 2022. As you know, businesses in my state and across the country are facing heightened freight transportation costs as a result of severe supply chain disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. A significant contributor to bottlenecks in the supply chain is the lack of a sufficient trucking workforce. Following discussions with the New Hampshire Department of Safety, I ask that the compliance deadline for the ELDT requirements be delayed at least six months to avoid creating additional impediments for an industry that is in critical need of new commercial drivers.

The American Trucking Association (ATA) recently noted that the current commercial driver shortage has risen to 80,000 – an all-time high for the industry. According to the ATA's estimates, the shortage could surpass 160,000 in 2030, based on driver demographic trends, including gender and age, as well as expected freight growth. Further, the ATA estimates that over the next decade, the industry will have to recruit nearly 1,000,000 new drivers to replace those leaving the industry as well as to meet growing demand for certified commercial drivers as the industry grows.

I am concerned that new and costly requirements imposed on entry-level commercial drivers under the ELDT rule could undermine efforts to rapidly grow the trucking workforce and may compound the supply chain disruptions currently impacting businesses and consumers. I support the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) in its mission to promote roadway safety and reduce crashes, injuries and fatalities involving large trucks and buses. It is my hope that, under your leadership, the FMCSA will determine that delaying the compliance requirement under the ELDT rule will not undermine this important mission. Rather, such a delay would provide critical support to the trucking industry and assist in addressing the unsustainable strain on supply chains that has raised prohibitive costs on businesses and consumers.

I appreciate your consideration on this important issue and look forward to working with you on how best to uphold safety and support the growth of the commercial driver workforce.

Sincerely,



---

Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senate

CC: Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
Director Brian Deese