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February 24, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to request that the Department of Transportation extend emergency declaration No. 2020-02, which exempts certain commercial trucking operators from hours of service requirements. It is my understanding that the emergency declaration is due to expire in the coming days.

As you know, our supply chains have continued to experience significant strain, which have limited choices and increased prices for consumers across the country. Much of this strain is the result of insufficient trucking capacity to transport the goods consumers need from the field or manufacturing facility to the shelf.

To help address these challenges, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMSCA) has exempted commercial truckers from hours of service requirements who are transporting livestock and livestock feed, medical supplies, vaccines, groceries and paper products, and gasoline. The exemption has permitted truckers to move goods more quickly and increase the supply of everything from food to medical supplies available to consumers.

While we are continuing to make progress in reducing COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations, the Omicron variant is still placing significant stress on supply chains across a variety of industries. FMSCA's emergency declaration represents one way we can help address the supply chain issue and provide at least some check on increasing prices.

Though the exemption has been helpful, it is clear we must do more to meet the demand. As a result, I would also encourage DOT to look for any other opportunities and regulatory changes that will make it easier for truckers to safely move goods across the country.

I appreciate your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,



Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator