

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

JAMES P. HOFFA
General President

25 Louisiana Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001



KEN HALL
General Secretary-Treasurer

202.624.6800
www.teamster.org

July 1, 2021

Via US Mail and Electronic Transmission

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 1.4 million members of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, I am writing to strongly urge your support for the *INVEST in America Act* (H.R.3684) which directs \$715 billion in critical federal investments in our roads, bridges, transit, rail and water infrastructure.

The Teamsters are especially proud supporters of the bill's new "motor carrier accountability" provision. This language will statutorily require every motor carrier in the country to certify that they are willing and able to comply with all labor and workplace safety laws before acquiring or renewing their registration with the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). It requires DOT to formally study the correlation between compensation and safety in all trucking and delivery operations nationwide. It also stipulates that the Agency must examine which labor and safety laws carriers are violating most often and would permit the creation of a system to actively track labor violations by carriers and determine how best to hold carriers accountable who are breaking our nation's laws.

This type of reform echoes what Teamster drivers have been saying for decades; that compensation, illegal corporate behavior, and operational safety are all inextricably linked. Provisions like this will help us begin to hold law-breaking

United States House of Representatives

June, 2021

Page 2 of 2

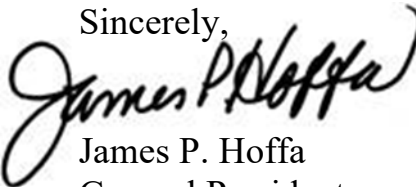
trucking and delivery companies accountable while improving safety for all motorists on the roads, including Teamster members.

In other wins for road users, the bill examines the safety of smaller vehicles being used in package delivery operations, create a first-of-its kind tracking system for autonomous trucking operations, and initiates a task force to examine exploitative truck leasing agreements which prey on unsuspecting truckers. It would also direct the DOT Inspector General to report on the use of temporary work visas by Mexican drivers which could be in violation of U.S. cabotage laws and driving down wages for thousands of American truckers.

H.R. 3684 also includes important provisions for the more 70,000 Teamster members working in the rail industry. It institutes a minimum size for train crews, prevents Amtrak from contracting out work when such work could be done by Teamster-BMWE members, and challenges the Class I freight rail industry's unsafe Precision Scheduled Railroading (PSR) operating model. It would also triple the funding for Amtrak to \$32 billion, ensuring years of stability for both passengers and rail workers.

This bold, forward looking bill will ensure safety across our transportation sector while promoting good-paying union jobs for years to come. It finally addresses head on the need to raise standards across the trucking industry countering the race-to-the-bottom which has plagued the industry since deregulation. I strongly support this legislation and I urge you to vote yes on final passage as it is considered on the floor of the House.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James P. Hoffa". The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a thin black rectangular border.

James P. Hoffa
General President

JPH/SMcB