

July 30, 2025

The Honorable Sam Graves  
Chair  
Committee on Transportation &  
Infrastructure  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Transportation &  
Infrastructure  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Rouzer  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Highways & Transit  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Highways & Transit  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

RE: H.R. 4601, "The Seasonal Agriculture CDL Modernization Act"

Dear Chair Graves, Ranking Member Larsen, Subcommittee Chair Rouzer, and Subcommittee Ranking Member Norton:

We, the undersigned agribusiness organizations, write to request your support for legislation sponsored by Rep. Tracey Mann that provides important modern updates to the Farm-Related Restricted Commercial Driver's License (or "Seasonal Ag CDL") program. These measures are critical to the continued success and viability of the agricultural industry, which feeds our country and is the economic backbone of rural communities across the United States. Current cosponsors include Representatives Jeff Hurd, Ron Estes, Randy Feenstra, Brad Finstad, Mark Messmer, Derek Schmidt, Buddy Carter, Troy Nehls, Jack Berman, John Rose, Adrian Smith, Mike Flood, David Kustoff, Craig Goldman, Julia Letlow, Ronny Jackson, Tim Burchett, Bruce Westerman, Nathaniel Moran, and Austin Scott.

Farm-related service industries include farm retail outlets and suppliers, agrichemical businesses, custom harvesters, and livestock feeders. These industries provide essential products and services to American farmers, provide well-paying jobs for their rural communities, and contribute billions to the U.S. economy. Seasonal Ag CDL drivers are hired for "just in time" delivery of agricultural products during "peak seasons" with many of these employees being retired farmers, farm workers, or college students raised on a farm with experience operating heavy agricultural equipment. Our industries cannot afford the overhead of maintaining an exclusive workforce of full-time commercial drivers due to the seasonal nature of agricultural production and transportation is incidental to the primary business purpose of agriculture. To address safety concerns, only drivers with a clean driving record (i.e. no convictions for any type of motor vehicle) are eligible to receive a farm-related restricted CDL. Additionally, these drivers must have held a motor vehicle license for at least one year, be medically qualified, included in drug/alcohol testing programs, and complete a driver qualification file. These drivers are only allowed to operate within 150 mile-radius of the place of business or the farm currently being served and no hazardous materials endorsements are allowed.

The proposed legislation aims to modernize and simplify regulations for farm-related industries by authorizing online renewal of Seasonal Ag CDLs. Additionally, it seeks to provide clarity and relief by codifying that implements of husbandry are not classified as commercial motor vehicles and do

not contribute to the Gross Combination Vehicle Weight Rating (GCVWR) or Gross Combination Weight (GCW).

The bill proposes the authorization of online renewal for Seasonal Ag CDLs. This initiative is designed to:

- Streamline the renewal process, saving time and resources for drivers and state agencies.
- Enhance accessibility, particularly for individuals in rural areas who may face challenges visiting renewal centers physically.
- Support the agricultural sector by reducing administrative burdens, allowing drivers to focus on essential farming and transportation activities.

Under the legislation, implements of husbandry—equipment specifically designed for farm use—will not be classified as commercial motor vehicles, as is long standing Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration policy to ensure more durable regulations for our industry. The purpose of this provision is to:

- Ensure that such equipment does not contribute to GCVWR or GCW calculations, simplifying compliance with commercial vehicle weight regulations.
- Protect farm-related service industries from unnecessary restrictions or penalties related to the transportation of agricultural related equipment.
- Encourage the efficient operation and mobility of agricultural implements, supporting productivity in farm operations.

Congress has made efforts in the past to modernize the Seasonal Ag CDL program. In 2022, Congress amended the Seasonal Ag CDL program to accommodate changing agricultural production seasons by creating a 210-day operating window and renewing the 12-month service period at the beginning of each year. The additional changes in this bill are necessary to help farmers and agribusinesses continue to operate, ensuring our safe, healthy, and plentiful food supply, and aiding rural communities amid rising input costs, low commodity prices, and changing climate conditions. We urge support for this legislation that will benefit all stakeholders in the agricultural industry.

Thank you for your dedication to supporting agriculture and rural communities.

Sincerely,

Agribusiness Association of Iowa  
Agribusiness Association of Kentucky  
Agribusiness Council of Indiana  
Agricultural Council of Arkansas  
Agricultural Retailers Association  
Agriculture Transportation Coalition  
American Cotton Shippers Association  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Feed Industry Association  
American Honey Producers Association  
American Malting Barley Association

Council of Producers & Distributors of Agrotechnology  
Far West Agribusiness Association  
Farm Credit Council  
Florida Fertilizer & Agrichemical Association  
Georgia Agribusiness Council  
Idaho Grain Producers Association  
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association  
Kansas Association of Wheat Growers  
Kansas Corn Growers Association  
Kansas Farm Bureau  
Kansas Grain and Feed Association  
Kansas Sorghum Producers  
Kansas Soybean Association  
Louisiana Ag Industries Association  
Michigan Agri-Business Association  
Minnesota Crop Production Retailers  
Mississippi Agricultural Industry Council  
Missouri Agribusiness Association  
Montana Agricultural Business Association  
National Aquaculture Association  
National Association of Wheat Growers  
National Barley Growers Association  
National Cattlemen's Beef Association  
National Corn Growers Association  
National Cotton Council  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Farmers Union  
National Grain and Feed Association  
National Grange  
National Milk Producers Federation  
National Pork Producers Council  
National Sorghum Producers  
National Sunflower Association  
Nebraska Agri-Business Association  
Nebraska Cooperative Council  
North American Millers' Association  
North American Renderers Association  
North Carolina AgriBusiness Council  
North Dakota Agricultural Association  
North Dakota Grain Dealers Association  
Ohio AgriBusiness Association  
Pet Food Institute  
Rocky Mountain Agribusiness Association  
South Dakota Agri-Business Association  
Southern Crop Production Association  
Texas Ag Industries Association  
Texas Grain & Feed Association  
The Fertilizer Institute

U.S. Canola Association  
US Rice Producers Association  
USA Rice  
Virginia Agribusiness Council  
Washington Association of Wheat Growers  
Wisconsin Agri-Business Association  
Wyoming Ag Business Association  
Wyoming Wheat Growers Association

cc:               Members of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee  
                  Members of the House Agriculture Committee