

December 9, 2025

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Chair
Committee on Commerce, Science, &
Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science, &
Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Todd Young
Chair
Subcommittee on Surface Transportation,
Freight, Pipelines, and Safety
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Gary Peters
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Surface Transportation,
Freight, Pipelines, and Safety
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

RE: S. 2909, “The Seasonal Agriculture CDL Modernization Act”

Dear Chair Cruz, Ranking Member Cantwell, Subcommittee Chair Young, and Subcommittee Ranking Member Peters:

We, the undersigned agribusiness organizations, write to request your support for legislation sponsored by Senators Moran, Ernst, and Ricketts 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
Delaware-Maryland Agribusiness Association
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 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 U.S. Committee on Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation
 Members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry