

June 1, 2021

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Chairman
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chairwoman
Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen DeFazio and Cantwell and Ranking Members Graves and Wicker:

The undersigned organizations are committed to building a United States transportation workforce that propels our future growth, which is why we support H.R. 3310 and S. 1681, the *Promoting Service in Transportation Act*. This legislation authorizes the Department of Transportation to develop a series of targeted broadcast, digital and print public service announcements to promote career opportunities and improve diversity in our nation's transportation workforce.

The pandemic has reminded all of us how vital transportation is to our economy and our lives, whether it be the medical supply chain or keeping our grocery stores stocked. For example, trucks move more than 71 percent of the nation's freight by weight and continue to play a critical role in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, most recently through the delivery of vaccines to communities throughout this country. General aviation, which employs more than 1.2 million workers, delivers medical supplies and connects thousands of communities not served by commercial airlines. Finally, the U.S.-flag maritime sector provides critical support of our national defense, strategic sealift, and disaster response objectives.

The outbreak of COVID-19 has provided a momentary reprieve of the transportation workforce shortage; however, as recovery continues the demand for qualified workers will return, and the workforce shortage will yet again destabilize transportation operations. In the trucking industry, there is a shortage of nearly 61,000 drivers. Women are also underrepresented in the profession, making up less than 7 percent of drivers. For the maritime industry, the challenge is an aging workforce, where the average worker is 54-years old, and there simply are not enough new employees to meet increasing demand. Lastly, the aviation industry will have a global demand of at least 34,000 pilots by 2025, with women making up only 5% of pilots, while other minority groups make up less than 10% for both men and women.

H.R. 3310 and S. 1681 are an opportunity to highlight for young people of all races, genders, ethnicities, and socioeconomic statuses that transportation careers are good, high paying jobs that embrace technology and offer a bright future. With continued growth and demand for STEM workers, we must remain competitive, and H.R. 3310 and S. 1681 allow us to start a new dialogue about reliable transportation careers.

That is why we support H.R. 3310 and S. 1681, the *Promoting Service in Transportation Act*, which provides tools to successfully recruit the next-generation transportation workforce and is critically important to the future of transportation, as well as our nation's economic recovery and prosperity. We strongly urge you to advance the legislation quickly.

Sincerely,

Aeronautical Repair Station Association
Air Line Pilots Association
Aircraft Electronics Association
Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association

Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association
Amalgamated Transit Union
American Trucking Associations
American Association of Airport Executives
American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association
Association of Flight Attendants
Association of Professional Flight Attendants
Aviation Technician Education Council
Cargo Airline Association
Chamber of Shipping of America
Commercial Vehicle Training Association
General Aviation Manufacturers Association
Helicopter Association International
International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers
International Foodservice Distributors Association
National Air Traffic Controllers Association
National Air Transportation Association
National Business Aviation Association
National Private Truck Council
NetJets Association of Shared Aircraft Pilots
Next Generation in Trucking Association
Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association
Professional Aviation Safety Specialists
Regional Airline Association
The TransForce Group
Transport Workers Union
Truckload Carriers Association
Women in Aviation
Women In Trucking Association