



**Mary B. Phillips**  
Senior Vice President  
Legislative Affairs

September 21, 2012

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

American Trucking Associations (ATA) supports passage of the Military Commercial Driver's License Act of 2012, which is being hotlined this afternoon. As Americans we must do everything possible to ease veterans' transitions from active duty to civilian life, including helping veterans find meaningful employment. Many veterans already have the necessary skills to become professional drivers, and ATA supports legislation that will make it easier, without compromising safety, for these heroes to obtain their CDL.

Federal law currently restricts states from issuing commercial driver's licenses to anyone not domiciled within that state. While this provision has fraud prevention applications in the civilian world, military servicemen and servicewomen are often based at locations in other states through no choice or option of their own. These service members' decision to protect our country perversely hampers their ability to test for and receive a commercial driver's license when based or deployed out of state.

The Military Commercial Driver's License Act of 2012 will change this. If enacted, the bill will create an exception allowing states to test and issue commercial driver's licenses to service members who are domiciled in another state. Veterans need jobs, and the trucking industry needs drivers. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects employment growth of 13% for heavy truck and tractor-trailer drivers over the ten-year period from 2008-2018. The increase translates to 233,000 *net* new jobs over the period, and closer to 350,000+ total truck driving jobs when turnover is taken into account.

There are good jobs waiting for these men and women, if we can level the playing field and get them licensed.

Sincerely,

Good stuff.

