

## **Oral Testimony of Randy Guillot, ATA Chairman**

### **House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, 6/9 1:00PM**

Thank you Chairman DeFazio, Ranking Member Graves, and members of the committee. My name is Randy Guillot, and I am the president of Triple G Express and Southeastern Motor Freight—motor carriers based in Jefferson, Louisiana.

It's my honor to speak with you today as Chairman of the American Trucking Associations. For 87 years, ATA remains the largest national trade organization representing the trucking industry. With affiliates in all 50 states, our membership encompasses more than 34,000 motor carriers and suppliers, representing every segment of the industry.

The COVID-19 pandemic thrust America's trucking industry to the forefront of our national consciousness. As most activity across the country ground to a halt, America's 3.5 million professional truck drivers kept moving. These heroes continue serving on the frontlines to ensure everyone has the goods they need to get through these challenging times.

Truckers are the difference between a fully-stocked grocery store and one lined with empty shelves. They're why doctors and nurses have PPE to protect themselves. They're how test kits get to hot-spots for local officials to use to fight the virus' spread.

The health of our nation—of our entire economy – rests on the strength of these heroes and our industry. When we lack the capital, resources or clearance to do our job, the impact is felt immediately, far and wide. Not only by us—but by the people we serve; our customers: Grocery stores. Pharmacies. Hospitals. First responders. Farmers. Manufacturers. Business owners. And the consumer—the American people—just to name a few.

That's why we've worked with policymakers at all levels to ensure these critical supply lines are not disrupted. And that begins with protecting the safety, health and well-being of our most critical asset: our workforce. Our drivers.

That means ensuring state officials keep public rest areas open. Truckers, like any human being, have basic needs. They need places to rest, places to eat, and places to use the bathroom. Otherwise, truckers can't do their job safely and efficiently.

It also means expanding PPE access across the industry. While large fleets might have resources to acquire PPE at scale, our Association has stepped up to help provide for small- and mid-size carriers. To date, we have obtained and distributed more than 150,000 face coverings to our members at cost, and partnered with the Department of Transportation to distribute more than 1.5 million more to frontline truckers across the country. We have also stationed more than 1,100 gallons of hand sanitizer along major freight corridors, where drivers can replenish where drivers can replenish their personal supplies at no cost.

Finally, I'd be remiss if I did not note Chairman DeFazio's introduction of a comprehensive infrastructure bill last week. Let me be clear: the single most important action this Congress can

take right now to support our workforce—and to provide for their safety—is to invest in our infrastructure.

Roads and bridges are not Democrat or Republican. We all drive on them. For the 7.7 million Americans in trucking doing their jobs day and night, moving our economy, we ask members of this committee to do theirs—and pass a bipartisan infrastructure bill this year that meets the urgent needs of our economy, our industry and the motoring public.

Thank you for working with us to ensure that America's trucking industry has the support it needs to serve our country through these tough times and into a better tomorrow. I look forward to answering your questions.