



institute of makers of explosives

The safety and security institute of the commercial explosives industry since 1913

March 19, 2024

The Honorable Roger Wicker
United States Senate
425 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jon Tester
United States Senate
311 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Deb Fischer
United States Senate
448 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Angus King
United States Senate
133 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Wicker, Tester, Fischer and King,

On behalf of the Institute of Makers of Explosives (IME), a trade association founded with the mission to promote the safe and secure manufacture, transport, distribution and use of commercial explosives, I write to thank you for introducing the “Transportation Security Screening Modernization Act.” This legislation is an important step towards reducing the duplicative and burdensome background checks essential transportation workers must secure and their associated fees. The labor shortage and need for more CDL drivers is well documented and this legislation now more than ever, better enables the transportation of goods by ensuring we have a workforce that’s prepared to keep our economy moving.

Manufacturers of commercial explosives contribute \$4 billion annually to the U.S. economy and employ nearly 10,000 workers in the U.S. Commercial explosives are essential to energy production, communications, technology manufacturing, highway and building construction, the health care delivery system, agriculture and the production of nearly all metals and mineral products. If you consume it, explosives make it possible.

The commercial explosives industry relies on all modes of transportation, including rail, truck, water and air to move our products safely and securely, not just nationwide but around the world. Commercial explosives workers are already required to pass Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) background checks and our members take great pride in promoting safety. Through the Transportation Security Screening Modernization Act, valid background checks could be applied to more than one TSA security threat assessment program, specifically the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) and HAZMAT Endorsement (HMEs). This reduction in duplicative background checks would be beneficial to both government and individuals. The fee structure would also be reduced, which would remove additional barriers to the industry.

IME stands ready to work with you to advance this important piece of legislation. Thank you for your leadership on this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Clark Mica', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

J. Clark Mica
President