



March 8, 2013

The Honorable Congressman Sam Graves
U.S. House of Representatives
1415 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

BRETT SHEETS
CHAIR

TROY ROBERTSON
FIRST VICE CHAIR

JAMES WINGFIELD
SECOND VICE CHAIR

ROCKY GRIFFITH
THIRD VICE CHAIR

LARRY KALLMEYER
TREASURER

TOM CRAWFORD
PRESIDENT & CEO

Dear Representative Graves:

H.R. 803, the SKILLS Act

On behalf of the Missouri Trucking Association, I urge you to support passage of HR 803, the Supporting Knowledge and Investing in Lifelong Skills (SKILLS) Act.

Funding through the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) allows nearly 7,000 individuals to be trained as professional truck drivers each year. According to a report prepared for the U.S. Department of Labor, more adults received training between April 2011 and March 2012 to become commercial truck drivers than any other discipline except nursing.

Earning one's commercial driver's license (CDL) requires passage of detailed knowledge and skill tests. Many new truck drivers learn these skills by attending a training course at special schools operated by trucking companies and community colleges. WIA makes it possible for many individuals, who otherwise could not afford the tuition, to get their CDL. In an as little as 6 weeks, an individual can finish training and have a good-paying job, with benefits.

The SKILLS Act would help WIA become more effective by –

- Focusing training on “in-demand” job opportunities, like trucking;
- Making more funds available for job training by reducing red tape, lowering overhead costs, and consolidating programs; and
- Increasing the representation of employers on local workforce boards.

Please support passage of HR 803. The importance of educational assistance through WIA is growing in our industry and others. The trucking industry expects to bring on nearly 100,000 new drivers each year, on average, over the next 10 years. We are already experiencing a shortage of 20,000 drivers, a shortage that could grow significantly unless we can attract trained drivers.

Sincerely,

Tom Crawford
President & CEO

Affiliate Member



102 East High Street • P.O. Box 1247 • Jefferson City, Missouri 65102
Telephone 573-634-3388 • Fax 573-634-4197 • www.motrucking.org • mota@motrucking.org

Good stuff.

