

The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry
Washington, DC 20515



Dear Representative Fortenberry:

H.R. 803, the SKILLS Act

On behalf of the Nebraska 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. With Nebraska having the natural competitive advantage of being the in the "center of everywhere" for manufacturing and distribution centers in North America we have many high wage and high demand job openings. This is especially important to Nebraskans based on the 2010 Nebraska Department of Labor and Economic Development Battelle Research that Transportation, Distribution, Warehousing and Logistics Career Pathway is one of the highest potential focus industries in Nebraska for business investment and job growth across the state. If the 13,500 interstate motor carriers that call Nebraska home can find and hire qualified drivers they will continue to grow, prosper and buy new equipment.

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,

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Larry A. Johnson
President
Nebraska Trucking Association

Nebraska Trucking Association

www.nebtrucking.com

1701 K Street, P.O. Box 81010

Lincoln, NE 68501-1010

phone 402-476-8504

fax 402-476-0579

The Honorable Adrian Smith
Washington, DC 20515



Dear Representative Smith:

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The Honorable Lee Terry
Washington, DC 20515



Dear Representative Terry:

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The Honorable Senator Deb Fischer
Washington, DC 20515



Dear Senator Fischer:

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The Honorable Senator Michael Johannes
Washington, DC 20515



Dear Senator Johannes:

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