



ALLIANCE FOR  
TOLL-FREE INTERSTATES

April 20, 2020  
Alliance for Toll-Free Interstates  
PO Box 20  
Richmond, VA 23218

*Delivered via email*

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate

Re: Opposing Federal Subsidies for Tolling Operators

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy and Leader Schumer:

During these unprecedented times, it is important to ensure that critical industries continue to function and job losses are minimized to the greatest extent possible. As America's conveyor belt, our highway system, which trucks utilize to move 71% of the nation's freight, must continue to be maintained and improved. The significant loss of revenue due to a precipitous drop-off in fuel purchases is straining transportation department budgets and has forced states to delay or cancel thousands of transportation projects. We join with state transportation departments and other groups to support additional federal funding to ensure that projects are not delayed or canceled. However, we are concerned that a request from the International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Authority for \$9.245 billion in federal subsidies for tolling authorities could jeopardize the allocation of funds for state departments of transportation.

Unlike transportation agencies, most tolling authorities have the ability to ride out this crisis. Privately-financed and publicly controlled toll facilities are funded through complex financial deals that have many factors contributing to their ability to endure short-term revenue drops, including overall liquidity levels, reserve accounts for debt service payments, existing cash on hand, and financial instruments securing their obligations to the public. Congress should focus on using public funds to protect the average American worker with direct investments in infrastructure rather than spending taxpayer dollars on sophisticated entities like project financiers.

Few toll roads have seen ratings changes to date, and any changes are largely related to the short-term outlook rather than a full ratings downgrade for most of these entities. Any changes mostly stemmed from existing issues with the toll authority's debt ratios. We are only aware of one toll authority that has had a ratings downgrade to date due to existing financial issues that, while

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compounded by decreases in traffic resulting from the pandemic, largely was the result of the structure of its existing debt. Toll roads in better financial positions have had their ratings and outlooks affirmed despite decreases in traffic nationwide. In fact, rating agencies have affirmed that most toll agencies are likely to have sufficient liquidity to endure the short-term revenue decrease resulting from traffic reductions. Toll authorities have other non-financial options to weather the storm, such as reducing operations while traffic volumes are decreased.

Toll road agreements were entered into by sophisticated entities with more than adequate legal and financial resources to protect themselves and work with their public partners to find solutions to endure the pandemic. State and local governments are best positioned to determine needs to prevent defaults under existing concession agreements.

While we understand the concerns of toll road operators, it is clear that they are far better prepared to maintain normal operations at this time than transportation agencies are. Therefore, we request that you ensure that all federal aid to support the continuance of surface transportation capital and operations budgets is directed to transportation agencies, and not to toll facility operators.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer these comments. We thank you for your consideration and look forward to working with you on any future legislation related to our surface transportation infrastructure. Should you have any additional questions, please contact our Director of Membership & Operations, Charlie Kiefer, at [charlie@tollfreeinterstates.com](mailto:charlie@tollfreeinterstates.com).

Sincerely,

Alabama Trucking Association, Inc.

Best Way Express

Alaska Trucking Association, Inc.

California Trucking Association

American Bakers Association

Citizen Outreach

American Farm Bureau Federation

Colorado Motor Carriers Association

American Highway Users Alliance

Delaware Motor Transport Association, Inc.

American Motorcyclist Association

Diamondback Systems

American Moving and Storage Association

Duncan & Sons Lines, Inc.

American Trucking Associations

FedEx

Arizona Trucking Association

Florida Trucking Association, Inc.

Arkansas Trucking Association

Georgia Motor Trucking Association, Inc.

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Golden Strip Transfer	National Council of Chain Restaurants
Hawaii Transportation Association	National Motorists Association
Idaho Trucking Association	National Private Truck Council
Illinois Trucking Association, Inc.	National Shippers Strategic Transportation Council (NASSTRAC)
Indiana Motor Truck Association, Inc.	National Tank Truck Carriers
International Foodservice Distributors Association	NATSO, representing America's Travel Plazas and Truckstops
International Franchise Association	Nebraska Trucking Association
Iowa Motor Truck Association, Inc.	Nevada Trucking Association, Inc.
Kansas Motor Carriers Association	New Hampshire Motor Transport Assoc.
Kentucky Trucking Association	New Jersey Motor Truck Association
Leathers Enterprises	New Mexico Trucking Association
Louisiana Motor Transport Association, Inc.	New York State Motor Truck Assn.
Maine Motor Transport Association, Inc.	No Tolls I-95 Coalition, Inc.
Maryland Motor Truck Association, Inc.	North Carolina Trucking Association, Inc.
Massachusetts Motor Transp. Assoc., Inc.	North Dakota Motor Carriers Association
McDonald's	Ohio Trucking Association
Michigan Trucking Association, Inc.	Oklahoma Trucking Association
Minnesota Trucking Association	Old Dominion Freight Line, Inc.
Mississippi Trucking Association	Oregon Trucking Associations, Inc.
Missouri Trucking Association	Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association (OOIDA)
Motor Carriers of Montana	Pennsylvania Motor Truck Association
Motor Transport Association of Connecticut	Rhode Island Trucking Association, Inc.
Motorcycle Riders Foundation	SIGMA: America's Leading Fuel Marketers
National Association of Convenience Stores	

South Carolina Trucking Assoc., Inc.  
South Dakota Trucking Association  
Specialized Carriers & Rigging Association  
Tennessee Trucking Association  
Texas Trucking Association  
Truck Renting and Leasing Association  
Truckload Carriers Association  
UPS  
Utah Trucking Association

Vermont Truck and Bus Association, Inc.  
Virginia Trucking Association  
Washington Trucking Associations  
Werner Enterprises  
West Virginia Trucking Association, Inc.  
White Castle  
Wisconsin Motor Carriers Association  
Wyoming Trucking Association, Inc.  
YRC Worldwide

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