

July 29, 2024

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chair
Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation
U.S. Senate
254 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation
U.S. Senate
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Cantwell and Ranking Member Cruz,

We, the undersigned coalition of associations representing trucking, rail, energy, organized labor, agriculture, maritime cargo handling, third-party logistics providers, and other key supply chain stakeholders are grateful that the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation will consider the *Transportation Security Screening Modernization Act* (S. 3959) during the markup scheduled for July 31, 2024, and urge approval of this legislation. Despite our unique perspectives on challenges facing America's supply chains, we share the common burden of redundant background checks and duplicative fees that make it challenging and onerous for our members to obtain the security credentials they need to do their jobs.

Although the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) houses most credentialing programs critical to supply chain continuity, the programs have distinct regulatory requirements that make them inefficient and costly. The *Transportation Security Screening Modernization Act* would create efficiencies for both the government and supply chain workers by harmonizing programs that require the same background check, including the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC), Hazardous Materials Endorsement (HME), and TSA PreCheck programs. Additionally, the legislation would allow individuals to apply for enrollment in multiple security threat assessment programs at the same time under a reduced fee structure.

The *Transportation Security Screening Modernization Act* is a bipartisan bill that would codify formal recommendations dating back to 2007 for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to eliminate these redundancies. In 2007, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) recommended that DHS coordinate its background check programs and harmonize programs that require the same background check, such as TWIC and HME.¹ In 2019, DHS tasked the Homeland Security Operational Analysis Center (HSOAC) with assessing the security value of the TWIC program, and the HSOAC recommended that DHS allow applicants to apply valid background checks to multiple TSA-managed credentialing programs to reduce costs and hassle for users.² The *Transportation Security Screening Modernization Act* is a long overdue solution for essential workers like truck drivers, pipeline operators, longshore workers, and warehouse managers, among many others, who must obtain these credentials as a condition of employment.

We understand and appreciate the need for security credentials to protect the nation from evolving threats, but Congress must take steps to address the harmful impacts that poorly managed programs have on the workers who keep our supply chain running. These individuals deserve a federal

¹ *Transportation Security: DHS Efforts to Eliminate Redundant Background Check Investigations*, (Government Accountability Office, April 2007), 45.

² Heather J. Williams et al., *The Risk-Mitigation Value of the Transportation Worker Identification Credential: A Comprehensive Security Assessment of the TWIC Program*, (Homeland Security Operational Analysis Center, 2019), 156.

credentialing process that respects their time and money, and the *Transportation Security Screening Modernization Act* directs the implementation of streamlined system that supports America's workers. We thank Senators Wicker, Tester, Fischer, and King for their leadership of this legislation and hope that the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation will approve this bill on Wednesday. Thank you for your leadership of this Committee and your support on this important issue.

Sincerely,

AATCO

Agricultural and Food Transporters Conference

Agricultural Retailers Association

AgTC Agriculture Transportation Coalition

Alabama Trucking Association

Alaska Fuel Storage and Handlers Alliance

Alaska Trucking Association

Allied Van Lines

American Association of Port Authorities

American Chemistry Council

American Pyrotechnics Association

American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association

American Trucking Associations

Arizona Moving Association

Arizona Petroleum Marketers Association

Arizona Trucking Association

Arkansas Oil Marketers Association, Inc.

Arkansas Trucking Association

Association of American Railroads

Automobile Carriers Conference

Baggett Transportation

Border Trade Alliance

California Trucking Association

Colorado Motor Carriers Association

Colorado Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Store Association

Connecticut Energy Marketers Association

Delaware Motor Transport Association

Empire State Energy Association, Inc.

Energy Marketers Association of Rhode Island

Energy Marketers of America

Florida Petroleum Marketers Association, Inc.

Florida Trucking Association

Fresh Produce Association of the Americas

FUEL Iowa

Fuel Merchants Association of New Jersey

Fuel True: Independent Energy and Convenience of Kansas

Fueling Minnesota

Garner Trucking Ltd

Gases and Welding Distributors Association

Georgia Motor Trucking Association

Georgia Oilmen's Association

Government Freight Conference

Harbor Trucking Association
Hawaii Energy Marketers Association
Hawaii Transportation Association
Idaho Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association
Idaho Trucking Association
Illinois Fuel & Retail Association
Illinois Trucking Association
Indiana Food & Fuel Association
Indiana Motor Truck Association
Institute of Makers of Explosives
Intermodal Motor Carriers Conference
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
International Longshore and Warehouse Union Washington Area District Council
Interstate Natural Gas Association of America
Iowa Motor Truck Association
Kansas Motor Carriers Association
Kentucky Petroleum Marketers Association
Kentucky Trucking Association
Louisiana Motor Transport Association
Louisiana Oil Marketers and Convenience Store Association
Lynden Inc.
Maine Energy Marketers Association
Maine Motor Transport Association
Maryland Motor Truck Association
Michigan Petroleum Association / Michigan Association of Convenience Stores
Michigan Trucking Association
Mid-Atlantic Petroleum Distributors' Association
Minnesota Trucking Association
Mississippi Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Stores Association
Mississippi Trucking Association
Missouri Petroleum & Convenience Association
Missouri Trucking Association
Montana Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Store Association
Montana Trucking Association
Motor Transport Association of Connecticut
Moving and Storage Conference
National Association of Chemical Distributors
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Energy & Fuels Institute
National Industrial Transportation League
National Motor Freight Traffic Association
National Private Truck Council
National Propane Gas Association
National Tank Truck Carriers
National Van Lines
NATSO, Representing America's Travel Plazas and Truckstops
Nebraska Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Store Association
Nebraska Trucking Association
Nevada Trucking Association
New England Convenience Store & Energy Marketers Association

New Hampshire Motor Transport Association
New Jersey Motor Truck Association
New Mexico Petroleum Marketers Association
New Mexico Trucking Association
North American Van Lines
North Carolina Petroleum & Convenience Marketers
North Carolina Trucking Association
North Dakota Petroleum Marketers Association
North Dakota Motor Carriers Association
Ohio Energy & Convenience Association
Ohio Trucking Association
Oklahoma Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Store Association
Oklahoma Trucking Association
Oregon Fuels Association
Oregon Trucking Associations
Paxton Van Lines
Pennsylvania Motor Truck Association
Pennsylvania Petroleum Association
Petroleum & Convenience Marketers of Alabama
Pretera Trucking Inc.
PTS Worldwide, Inc.
Radiopharmaceutical Shippers & Carriers Committee
Railway Supply Institute
Reify Solutions
Republic Moving & Storage
Rhode Island Trucking Association
SIGMA: America's Leading Fuel Marketers
SJ Transportation
South Carolina Convenience & Petroleum Marketers Association
South Carolina Trucking Association
South Dakota Petroleum & Propane Marketers Association
South Dakota Trucking Association
Tennessee Fuel and Convenience Store Association
Tennessee Trucking Association
Texas Food & Fuel Association
Texas Trucking Association
Transportation Intermediaries Association
Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO
Tri-State Motor Transit Co.
Trucking Association of Massachusetts
Trucking Association of New York
Truckload Carriers Association
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Utah Petroleum Marketers & Retailers Association
Utah Trucking Association
Vermont Fuel Dealers Association
Vermont Truck and Bus Association
Virginia Petroleum & Convenience Marketers Association
Virginia Trucking Association
Washington Independent Energy Distributors

Washington Movers Conference
Washington State Labor Council
Washington Trucking Associations
West Virginia Oil Marketers & Grocers Association
West Virginia Trucking Association
Western Petroleum Marketers Association
Wisconsin Fuel and Retail Association
Wisconsin Motor Carriers Association
Women in Motion
Wyoming Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association
Wyoming Trucking Association
3GL, Ltd.