

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 31, 2020

Jim Mullen
Deputy Administrator
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Deputy Administrator Mullen:

As our country responds to the coronavirus outbreak, the trucking industry is continuing its diligent work in delivering critical supplies to hospitals, grocery stores, and businesses in the face of uncertainty and hardship. Our economy has grown to depend on truckers to deliver the goods we depend on each day. Now, it is time that we lend a helping hand to those individuals in the trucking industry that continue working hard to bring the American people what they need.

As the Administration moves forward with its coronavirus response, I hope that the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) will consider the particular difficulties our nation's truckers are currently facing. My office has heard from truckers all across Georgia that they are concerned about meeting the regulatory requirements mandated by the FMCSA and the personal contact their job often requires. Specifically, truckers are required by FMCSA regulations to renew their CDL license and get regular physicals. While these regulations are important for trucker and driver safety, this abnormal situation requires us to adapt to keep truckers safe and moving. In order to keep truckers on the road and keep necessary products in American households and grocery stores, I ask that the FMCSA consider loosening regulations that are difficult for truckers to comply with during the coronavirus outbreak.

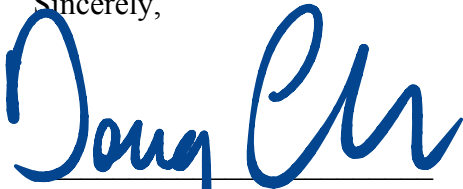
Truckers are also working to abide by CDC guidelines recommending social distancing while fulfilling their daily obligations, many of which involve personal contact with suppliers and receivers. The typical requirements of truckers – like entering supplier and receiver facilities to pick up loads – are becoming difficult or dangerous to meet during the outbreak. Truckers that are responsible for maintaining our country's food supply chain face an even higher demand to ensure the items they are moving are handled safely and responsibly. It is imperative that we keep our truckers safe by minimizing face-to-face contact with suppliers and receivers.

In light of these concerns, I ask that the FMCSA consider providing a grace period for certain renewals and requirements that would mandate face-to-face contact or visits to doctors' offices.

Further, I ask the FMCSA to issue guidelines for truckers, suppliers, and receivers to help establish policies that will ensure truckers are able to follow the Administration's guidelines and reduce the spread of coronavirus.

I appreciate the hard work all agencies, including the Department of Transportation and the FMCSA, are doing to help our country overcome the coronavirus outbreak. As we continue our response, I hope that you will reach out to our office with updates related to the trucking industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Doug Collins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The name "Doug" is written in a larger, more prominent script, and "Collins" follows in a similar but slightly smaller script. The signature is positioned above a horizontal line.

Doug Collins
Member of Congress