March 30, 2020

U.S. Governors
U.S. Lieutenant Governors
State Transportation Directors
State Agriculture Directors and Commissioners

Dear State Official:

RE: Harmonization of Increased Truck Weights on U.S. and Interstate Highways

The undersigned organizations thank you, your staff and your state's employees for the countless hours of work and dedication you are collectively contributing to address the unprecedented COVID-19 crisis.

The farmers, ranchers, food and beverage manufacturers, processors, package suppliers and agricultural product marketers that make up our memberships are dedicated to providing the safe, abundant and affordable food and feed required to ensure our country stays healthy and fed during this time.

We commend the many states that have increased truck weights on some highways within their jurisdictions. Increased truck weights improve the food industry's efficiency and capacity to deliver essential food, feed and key ingredients which sustain our food supply chain. This will become more critical if the availability of truck drivers is impacted adversely by COVID-19.

Congress has acted on the need for maintaining and enhancing truck capacity by including Section 22003 of the "Coronavirus Aid Relief, and Economic Security Act," signed into law last week, which expressly clarifies the U.S. Department of Transportation's authority to allow states to increase truck weight limits during the COVID-19 emergency.

Therefore, we respectfully ask that your state, if it has not already done so, increase truck weights on all U.S. highways and Federal Interstate Highways within its jurisdiction to a minimum of 88,000 pounds—while respecting bridge and posted seasonal or special road and/or local limitations.

Establishing a minimum truck weight limit of 88,000 pounds would ensure that a minimum harmonized weight exists across the country and help protect against essential shipments adhering to this common increase from being impeded at state borders.

Thank you in advance for your timely consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Agricultural & Food Transporters Conference Agricultural Retailers Association Agriculture Transportation Coalition AMCOT American Bakers Association American Beekeeping Federation American Beverage Association

American Cotton Producers

American Cotton Shippers Association

American Farm Bureau Federation

American Frozen Food Institute

American Honey Producers Association

American Seed Trade Association

American Sheep Industry Association

American Soybean Association

American Sugar Alliance

Consumer Brands Association

Corn Refiners Association

Cotton Growers Warehouse Association

Cotton Warehouse Association of America

Cottonseed and Feed Association

Forest Resources Association

Growth Energy

Hardwood Federation

International Dairy Foods Association

Institute of Shortening and Edible Oils

Leather and Hide Council of America

Meat Import Council of America

National Alliance of Forest Owners

National Aquaculture Association

National Association of Wheat Growers

National Cattlemen's Beef Association

National Chicken Council

National Cotton Council

National Cotton Ginners Association

National Cottonseed Products Association

National Council of Textile Organizations

National Council of Farmer Cooperatives

National Farmers Union

National Grain and Feed Association

National Grange

National Milk Producers Federation

National Oilseed Processors Association

National Pasta Association

National Pork Producers Council

National Potato Council

National Sorghum Producers

National Turkey Federation

North American Meat Institute

North American Millers' Association

North American Renderers Association

Panhandle Peanut Growers Association

Pet Food Institute

Southwest Council of Agribusiness

Soy Transportation Coalition
The Fertilizer Institute
United Fresh Produce Association
USA Rice
U.S. Custom Harvesters, Inc.
U.S. Poultry & Egg Association
Western Growers Association
Western Peanut Growers Association