January 24, 2022

The Honorable Adam Smith
U.S. House of Representatives
2264 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Katko
U.S. House of Representatives
2428 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Congressmen Smith and Katko,

On behalf of the American Trucking Associations (ATA) and the 7.7 million men and women employed by the trucking industry in every state and congressional district across the nation, I write to express our strong support for the Transportation Security Administration Security Threat Assessment Application Modernization Act. This critical legislation will standardize and streamline the enrollment process for individuals applying for multiple Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Security Threat Assessment (STA) programs, relieving truck drivers of duplicative fees and redundant background checks, and empowering them to meet the needs of supply chains moving hazardous materials and operating in secure facilities.

Since the attacks of September 11, 2001, Congress has imposed background check requirements on many federally-regulated activities, and TSA is required by law to conduct STAs on truck drivers before they are permitted to access sensitive freight. Currently, truck drivers must undergo TSA STAs in order to obtain Transportation Worker Identification Credentials (TWIC) and hazardous materials endorsements (HME). TWICs are required for access to secure areas of ports and military installations, and HMEs are required to haul hazardous materials like fuel and ethanol.

The TSA STA Application Modernization Act will benefit the trucking industry because it permits applicants to apply successful, valid background check results from a TSA Security Threat Assessment to satisfy the vetting requirements for participation in any TSA program, including the TWIC, HME, and PreCheck programs. Given that HMEs and TWICs cost $86.50 and $125.25 per application, respectively, this legislation will result in significant financial and time savings for truck drivers. It also makes well-paying careers in the trucking industry more accessible for qualified drivers who are otherwise deterred by financial and/or logistical barriers to entry. Importantly, this legislation standardizes the enrollment and renewal system for key TSA programs without sacrificing the integrity of TSA's critical security mission or broader public safety.

As families across the nation continue to struggle with unexpected job losses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is critical that Congress pass bipartisan solutions like the TSA STA Application Modernization Act to ensure more Americans have the opportunity to qualify for some of the most in-demand careers in the trucking industry. Your legislation represents a tangible step toward a more resilient workforce and American economy. We look forward to working with you, Congress, and the Biden Administration to enact this timely legislation and expand opportunities for working Americans.

Sincerely,

Edwin Gilroy
Senior Vice President of Legislative Affairs
The American Trucking Associations