



**GUAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
**PARTNERS IN PROGRESS**

May 17, 2021

THE HONORABLE TELENA CRUZ NELSON  
Chairperson, Committee on Education, Self Determination and  
Historic Preservation, Infrastructure, Border Safety, Federal and  
Foreign Affairs, and Maritime Transportation  
*I Mina' Trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*  
Guam Congress Building  
163 Chalan Santo Papa  
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

**RE: BILL 83-36. AN ACT TO AMEND §5101, §5104, §5107, §5109, §5112, §5114, §5118 AND §5120 TO REPEAL §5103 AND §5105, AND TO ADD §5119, and ALL TO CHAPTER 5 OF TITLE 16, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO THE SIZE, WEIGHT, AND LOAD LIMITATIONS, AND RESTRICTIONS OF CERTAIN VEHICLES.**

Hafa Adai Chairwoman Nelson and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Bill No. 83-36.

The Guam Chamber of Commerce stands in support of Bill 83-36 which makes amendments towards the size, weight, load limitations, and restrictions of certain vehicles, as it applies to the haul road from Piti to Harmon on Route 1. We appreciate the work and cooperation between the authors of the bill, the Department of Public Works and our member haulers and wholesale merchants over the past year and a half in discussing how to address the stress and impact the implementation of PL 33-106 has had on our residents, which essentially contributed to increased cost of goods because of the law's stringent restrictions on large trucks and hauling vehicles.

Bill 83-36 boils down to reducing and stabilizing transportation costs from the Port Authority of Guam to Harmon, where many of our wholesale warehouses are located. When the Transportation Enforcement Screening Station (TESS) statute was established several years ago under PL 33-105, the concerning factor for businesses was the implementation of stiff measurements for large vehicles resulting in additional fees, forcing importers to increase the cost of goods to their customers, which would eventually be passed to the end user. While we recognize that the intent of the TESS Law was to provide sustainability for our roads, it was quickly recognized that some balance needed to be identified and addressed.

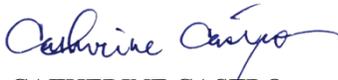
Because of Guam's unique location, our community has had to work with the high cost of shipping consumer goods and products to our island. There are many factors which lead to the costs of goods, and transportation is a critical component in the process. While wholesalers may not be able to guarantee that the passage of this measure would reduce the cost of everyday products at the retail end, it would allow them to reduce their expenditures. Therefore, economic factors such as competition and supply & demand would drive consumer decisions at the retail front. As a wholesaler recently stated, *"I can't promise you that if this bill passes that my product would be cheaper at the store, but what I can assure you is that if it does pass, there won't be another reason to increase its cost to the retailer."* This bill, if passed, would allow for some semblance of the stabilization of transportation costs.

*May 17, 2021*

The Guam Chamber of Commerce represents over 400 business members. We also represent several entities that would benefit positively with the passage of this measure, which in turn, we believe, would translate to some relief at the cash registers.

As we work cooperatively to bring ourselves out of an economic blight caused by a global pandemic, any relief would be very helpful for our families. It is with this belief that our organization supports Bill 83-36 and encourages senators of the 36<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature to pass the measure as drafted. We thank the authors of the bill for their support as well as the Department of Public Works and member businesses who worked diligently together on this compromised measure. As always, we are open to a discussion with lawmakers on this and other measures. *Si Yu'os Ma'ase.*

Sincerely,



CATHERINE CASTRO

President