March 30, 2020

U.S. Governors

U.S. Lieutenant Governors

State Transportation Directors

State Agriculture Directors

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 manufacturers, processors, and agricultural product marketers that make up our membership are dedicated to providing the safe and abundant food and feed required to ensure our country stays healthy and fed during this time.

 We are appreciative that many states have increased truck weights on some highways. Increased truck weights improve the food industry’s capacity to deliver essential food, feed and key ingredients which keeps our food supply chain full. This will become more critical if truck drivers are impacted by COVID-19.

 Congress has acted on truck capacity by including Section 22003 of the “Coronavirus Aid Relief, and Economic Security Act” which clarifies the U.S. Department of Transportation’s authority to allow states to increase truck weight during the COVID-19 emergency.

 Therefore, we call on your state to increase truck weights on all U.S. highways and Federal Interstate Highways in your state to a minimum of 88,000 pounds—while respecting bridge and posted seasonal or special road and/or local limitations.

Establishing a minimum of 88,000 pounds ensures that a minimum harmonized weight exists across the country and further ensures that essential shipments adhering to this common increase will not be impeded at state lines.

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

Sincerely,

Agricultural & Food Transporters Conference

Agricultural Retailers Association

Agriculture Transportation Coalition

American Bakers Association

American Beekeeping Federation

American Cotton Producers

American Frozen Food Institute

American Honey Producers Association

American Seed Trade Association

American Sheep Industry Association

Consumer Brands Association

Hardwood Federation

International Dairy Foods Association

Leather and Hide Council of America

Meat Import Council of America

National Alliance of Forest Owners

National Association of Wheat Growers

National Cattlemen's Beef Association

National Cotton Council

National Cotton Ginners Association

National Council of Textile Organizations

National Council of Farmer Cooperatives

National Grain and Feed Association

National Milk Producers Federation

National Oilseed Processors Association

National Pasta Association

National Pork Producers Council

National Potato Council

National Turkey Federation

North American Meat Institute

North American Renderers Association

Pet Food Institute

The Fertilizer Institute

United Fresh Produce Association

USA Rice

U.S. Custom Harvesters, Inc.

U.S. Poultry & Egg Association