State Top Industry Issues Report 2025
Alaska

1. Diesel Emissions Regulations

- Research the performance of emission control technologies.
- Identify the financial impacts associated with compliance of mandated diesel emission regulations.

2. Driver Shortage

- Support an industry-funded outreach program to improve the trucking industry's image.
- Advocate for expanding interstate CDL eligibility to 18-20-year old drivers.

3. Transportation Infrastructure / Congestion / Funding

- Advocate for a new funding program to focus federal resources on truck bottlenecks along major freight corridors.
- Support new highway user fees that minimize compliance and collection costs and do not discriminate against trucking operations.

4. Diesel Technician Shortage

- Encourage partnerships between motor carriers, truck dealers, high schools and local community colleges/tech schools to promote diesel technician training and placement.
- Identify new training and curriculum needs relating to emerging technologies, such as those pertaining to electric, automated and/or autonomous truck maintenance, and the application of artificial intelligence to maintenance and repair.

5. Driver Retention

- Evaluate the impact of truck driver benefits, including health insurance and retirement benefits, on driver retention.
- Quantify and promote the retention strategies of carriers that continuously experience low driver turnover.
- Research the primary factors behind drivers leaving trucking careers.

6. Insurance Cost / Availability

- Develop framework for potential upfront insurance premium reductions when drivers and carriers adopt proven safety technologies.
- Educate the public about lawsuit abuse leading to increased consumer prices and insurance costs.

7. Battery Electric Vehicles

- Monitor progress on medium- and heavy-duty public charging infrastructure.
- Research the impacts of battery electric vehicles on transportation infrastructure, crash response and first responder safety.

8. Compliance, Safety, Accountability (CSA)

- Work with FMCSA to update its carrier prioritization methodology, improve its accuracy, continuously review and evaluate crash preventability factors, and enhance transparency in CSA.
- Support FMCSA's work to speed up the DataQ process by improving internal processes for reviewing Request for Data Reviews (RDRs).

Issues and strategies are listed in order as ranked by Alaska-based respondents.

9. Truck Parking

- Advocate for a dedicated federal funding program to increase truck parking capacity at freight-critical locations.

10. Economy

- Quantify the impact of increasing trucking operational costs on supply chains and the nation's economy, including the impact of new tariffs.
- Research the patterns and causes of the current, prolonged freight recession.

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