



March 17, 2020

James A. Mullen  
Acting Administrator  
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration  
Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Acting Administrator Mullen:

In response to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreaks and their effects on people across the country, our national associations,<sup>1</sup> representing the fuel retailing industry, urge you issue a national waiver of Parts 390 through 399 of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (HOS Waiver) for the transportation of fuel.

On March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared a national emergency in response to the impact COVID-19 is having on public health and safety in all fifty States and the District of Columbia. In conjunction with that declaration, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) issued a nationwide HOS Waiver for the transportation of essential supplies, but it did not include fuel. Fuel is a key component of the supply chain and therefore crucial to ensuring supplies reach their destination.

We support the HOS Waiver for the delivery of essential supplies critical to supporting public health during this crisis. Without access to fuel, however, manufacturers are unable to provide supplies to hospitals, businesses, and homes. Moreover, workers at essential businesses—including first responders and hospital workers—need fuel to get to their jobs. In addition, emergency response vehicles need uninhibited access to fuel.

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<sup>1</sup>NACS is an international trade association representing the convenience store industry with more than 2,200 retail and 1,600 supplier companies as members, the majority of whom are based in the United States. NATSO currently represents approximately more than 3,000 travel plazas and truck stops nationwide, comprised of both national chains and small, independent locations. PMAA member associations represent wholesalers and retailers of gasoline, diesel, heating oil, lubricants and renewable fuels. Additionally, these companies supply motor fuels to 40,000 independently owned retail outlets. SIGMA represents a diverse membership of approximately 260 independent chain retailers and marketers of motor fuel.

In some states, our members have already started to see consumers rush to the pumps, which can disrupt access to fuel for those who need it most. Issuing a nationwide HOS Waiver for the transportation of fuel will help mitigate a broader run on fuel.

In addition, there is currently a national shortage of drivers. Losing drivers due to illness or quarantine will only amplify the shortage of drivers making a nationwide HOS Waiver for the transportation of fuel even more necessary.

We appreciate your consideration of this request. We look forward to working with you to address this ongoing health crisis.

Sincerely,

National Association of Convenience Stores  
National Association of Truckstop Operators  
Petroleum Marketers Association of America  
Society of Independent Gasoline Marketers of America