



July 28, 2021

Representative Ryan Winkler
Chair, Frontline Worker Working Group
459 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Winkler:

The Minnesota Trucking Association formally requests that you include Minnesota's professional truck drivers among those receiving front-line worker bonuses appropriated by the Minnesota legislature.

During the darkest days of the pandemic, Minnesota's professional truck drivers delivered critical food, medical supplies and essential goods to keep Minnesota running. Truck drivers meet the core definition of essential.

When the world stopped, we kept rolling. Truck drivers had no option to work remotely, or even at reduced capacity. Everything had to move. These drivers were committed to pushing on through fatigue, knowing that what they carried could mean the difference between life and death.

Each and every day these brave men and women, at peril to themselves, climbed into the truck to face hours of uncertainty. Where could they get food? Where could they use a bathroom? Would the customer be open? Many truck drivers were able to regularly return home to families, while many were forced to spend all of their waking and sleeping hours in their truck.

The emotional toll was great. As they went from pick to delivery, they thought about their families that they left alone, and what they might be bringing back to them when they returned.

Despite employing many distancing and safety protocols, these drivers interacted with many people to complete their jobs. From dock workers to receptionists to citizens in their homes, truck drivers brought the pallets and packages to needy people.

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It is important to note that the occupation truck driver is broad and varied. Some have a commercial drivers' license, others do not. Some run interstate, some run local. Some drive large trucks, while others drive small step vans. We are interested to learn what definition you will be using and urge you to be as broad as possible.

And while I have focused on truck drivers, we also believe the mechanics and technicians who serviced the trucks are also deserving for consideration. They too had no choice to work remotely, as they cleaned and maintained the trucks to keep them rolling.

We are happy to assist in providing additional information or data to help you with your work.

As you consider who should be eligible for frontline worker pay, please remember that all the food, toilet paper, water, personal protective equipment, medicine, test samples, vaccines and virtually everything else was delivered by the finest people I know, Minnesota's professional truck drivers.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Hausladen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J" that loops around the first part of the name.

John Hausladen
President
Minnesota Trucking Association