



Issue Brief



DRIVE-Safe Act

October 2020

DRIVE-Safe Act

- The country is facing a massive truck driver shortage which is increasing the costs of consumer goods and hurting the economy
- This Act addresses the truck driver shortage which is impacting the transportation of forest logs and products
- Provides a pathway to well paid jobs for young adults seeking a career while making our roads safer
- Creates a supervised apprenticeship program for potential drivers that are 18-21 years of age
- Keeps wood supply chain competitive

Why FRA Supports the DRIVE-Safe Act

- The forest products industry ranks among the top 10 manufacturing sectors in 45 states and supports 2.4 million jobs through the supply chain.
- The forest products industry relies on the transport of logs, chips, and biomass from the woods to the mill. Access to truck drivers is critical to supply mills with essential raw materials at competitive costs.
- Hauling of logs are in the top 5 commodities in 15 states based on weight.
- In the U.S., more than 13 million individual truck deliveries are needed to supply the fiber for the products economy, annually.
- The Developing Responsible Individuals for a Vibrant Economy (DRIVE) Safe Act would create apprenticeships which train 18-21-year olds to drive trucks on the interstate.
- Removes the single biggest regulatory barrier underlying the truck driver shortage; the recruitment of young drivers.
- An apprenticeship program would be developed that addresses safety concerns of young drivers. This program comprises 400 hours, of which 240 hours must be drive time with an experienced driver.
- The DRIVE-Safe Act allows young people with an interest in truck driving to become employed in jobs with good pay and benefits.

Request: Support the DRIVE-Safe Act provisions in the highway surface bill reauthorization.

About FRA

The Forest Resources Association (FRA) represents the interests of nearly 300 organizations and businesses in the forest products industry. Our members include forest landowners, suppliers, consuming mills, associated businesses, and state forestry associations.

The Mission of FRA is to promote the interests of forest products industry members in the economic, efficient, and sustainable use of forest resources in order to meet the needs of the wood fiber supply chain through private enterprise. FRA members are located in 48 states and 320 Congressional Districts.

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