



Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Supply chain dysfunction is nothing new for truckers

*Relief and reform are needed to address detention, high turnover,
other issues plaguing the trucking industry*

(Washington D.C., Oct. 13, 2021) – The Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association issued the following response after today’s White House meeting on the Supply Chain Crisis:

Todd Spencer, president and CEO:

Truckers have been working tirelessly to keep the country safe and productive throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. They have already been operating around the clock, but are often restricted by factors beyond their control such as excessive detention time and the lack of readily-available, safe parking for their trucks. These problems must finally be addressed if the Administration hopes to implement any significant supply chain solutions. Most of what we are seeing is not a surprise to our members who have been plagued with dysfunction in the supply chain for decades and it’s not realistic to expect the supply chain will suddenly operate efficiently on a 24/7 schedule when drivers aren’t being fully paid for their time.

In recent months, global supply shortages have forced some truckers off the road. Drivers are experiencing the domino effects of supply and staffing shortages which are preventing them from complying with federal regulations. Examples include drug and alcohol testing delays and difficulties finding replacement electronic logging devices, DEF filters, and CPAP machines. [We encourage the U.S. Department of Transportation and other agencies to begin making some emergency allowances to keep safe, qualified drivers in business.](#)

But let’s be clear, the current supply chain crisis is not due to a shortage of truck drivers! Because the real bottlenecks in the supply chain occur at pickup and delivery points, adding more trucks and drivers will simply makes the lines longer, NOT faster. Every region of our

country and segment of our economy relies upon long-haul truck drivers and it's time that both the government and the trucking industry begin treating them as essential workers. We support the Administration's efforts to improve the quality of trucking jobs, but this must start with valuing and compensating all of a driver's time.

The Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association is the largest national trade association representing the interests of small-business trucking professionals and professional truck drivers. The Association currently has more than 150,000 members nationwide. OOIDA was established in 1973 and is headquartered in the greater Kansas City, Mo. area.

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