

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 19, 2019

The Honorable Richard Neal
Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means
1139 Longworth House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Neal and Ranking Member Brady,

As the committee considers funding sources for the highway trust fund, we ask that you consider phasing out the 12 percent federal excise tax (FET) on heavy-duty trucks and replacing it with alternative sources of revenue while ensuring all users pay their fair share.

As you know, the FET on heavy-duty trucks was first implemented to help fund World War I. Because the FET is based on annual sales of heavy-duty trucks, the amount of revenue provided to the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) can vary annually. According to the American Truck Dealers, the FET on heavy-duty trucks is the most volatile source of funding to the HTF over the last 20 years. This inconsistency will continually make it harder to provide sustainable and predictable funding to the Highway Trust Fund.

The FET on heavy-duty trucks may also cause truck owners to delay upgrading to newer, more fuel-efficient trucks that have the latest emissions control technology. Additionally, new features such as automatic emergency braking and lane departure warning improve highway safety but add additional costs. The FET is therefore also a tax on the newest environmental and safety technologies.

For these reasons we urge the Committee to consider phasing out the FET and replacing it with a more stable funding mechanism that ensures all users pay their fair share and that the HTF maintains consistent revenue. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



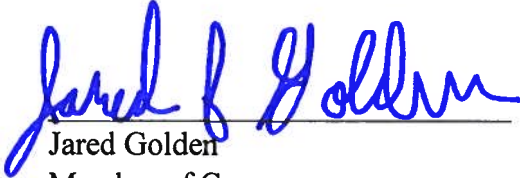
Tom O'Halloran
Member of Congress



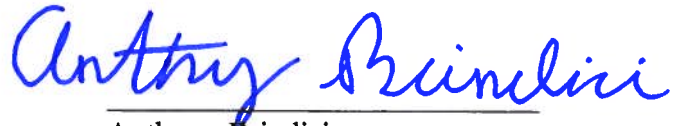
Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



Jared Golden
Member of Congress



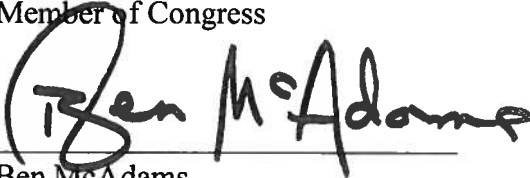
Anthony Brindisi
Member of Congress



Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress



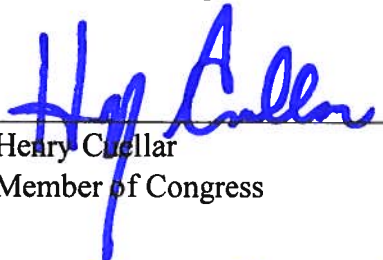
TJ Cox
Member of Congress



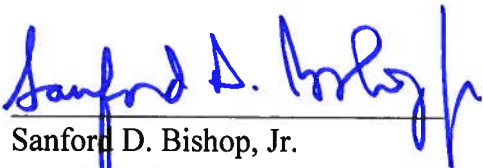
Ben McAdams
Member of Congress



David Scott
Member of Congress



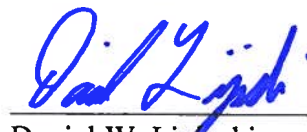
Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress



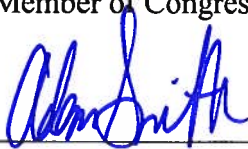
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



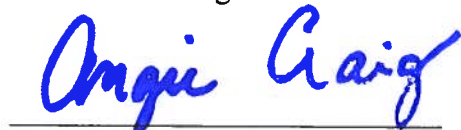
J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Daniel W. Lipinski
Member of Congress



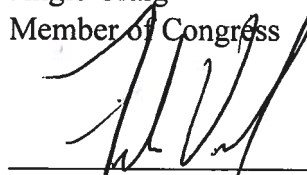
Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Angie Craig
Member of Congress



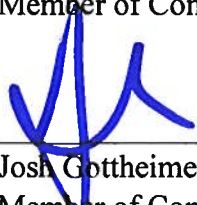
Cindy Axne
Member of Congress



Filemon Vela
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Marc A. Veasey
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Josh Gottheimer
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Ann McLane Kuster
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Joyce Beatty
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