



April 8, 2020

Nicole R. Nason
Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Nason:

Our associations represent off-highway cities and communities, tens of thousands of off-highway foodservice businesses that are struggling to remain open and keep people employed during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, and blind merchants that manage vending machines at Interstate rest areas.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) recently announced that states may allow food trucks to operate at rest areas within the Interstate system right-of-way. We understand that the emergency we face as a nation necessitates outside-the-box thinking. This is especially true with respect to ensuring that our nation's truck drivers have access to places where they can rest and buy food as they move and deliver essential goods and supplies.

We recognize that you have stated that the non-enforcement directive you have issued will only be in effect during the current national emergency. Beyond that, we would like to be

collaborative partners with FHWA so that off-highway businesses can remain open during the pandemic and continue serving millions of truck drivers every week. We believe that the best way to ensure this can occur is to help those businesses survive and stay open during this pandemic.

We hope that FHWA's non-enforcement directive does not result in foodservice transactions being redirected to food trucks from nearby rest area vending machines or struggling off-highway businesses, but rather that food trucks operate solely at rest areas that are located on stretches of the Interstate where there are no open foodservice operations in close proximity that are available to truck drivers.

In addition, we respectfully ask that you commit to not further expanding this non-enforcement guidance beyond food trucks during this epidemic, and once the state of emergency ends immediately revert back to enforcing the long-standing ban on commercializing Interstate rest areas.

Thank you for your support and your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

NATSO, Representing America's Travel Centers and Truckstops
International Franchise Association
National Association of Convenience Stores
National Automatic Merchandising Association
National Federation of the Blind
National Franchise Association
National League of Cities
National Restaurant Association
National Retail Federation
Petroleum Marketers Association of America
Society of Independent Gasoline Marketers of America