



Solidarity House

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INTERNATIONAL UNION, UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AEROSPACE & AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS OF AMERICA – UAW

RORY L. GAMBLE, *PRESIDENT*

RAY CURRY, *SECRETARY-TREASURER*

VICE-PRESIDENTS: TERRY DITTES • CINDY ESTRADA • GERALD KARIEM

June 17, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the one million active and retired members of the International Union, UAW, including roughly 40,000 UAW members who build heavy trucks or work for heavy truck parts suppliers, I respectfully request your support for suspending the 12 percent federal excise tax (FET) on the purchase of new heavy-duty trucks and trailers until the end of 2021.

As you are aware, we are living in extraordinary times as we face a dual public health and economic crisis. We are grateful for your leadership during this perilous time and commitment to working families. While the CARES Act and other measures passed by Congress address some of the outstanding needs of Americans, there is still more work to be done. Now, more than ever, workers need Congress to take action to restore and create manufacturing jobs during this severe economic slowdown.

As of May 2020, 21 million Americans are officially unemployed and truck manufacturing plants and suppliers have either suspended or scaled back operations across the country.¹ Analysts predict U.S. truck sales will decline by 50 percent this year due to the economic slowdown. This significant decline in sales has hit manufacturing workers hard as many companies announced significant layoffs when the coronavirus struck.

The impact of dropping sales extends well beyond the manufacturing worker as an estimated 7.8 million Americans are employed in jobs related to trucking. Working people need solutions and suspending the FET could help get heavy truck manufacturing and supplier parts assembly lines

¹ Bureau of Labor Statistics, *The Employment Situation-May 2020*, <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empisit.pdf>

moving again. A suspension of the FET provides the incentive that truck fleets want and could give heavy-duty truck and trailer sales a boost. The Modernize the Truck Fleet Coalition reports almost 60 percent of truck fleet owners would be likely to buy additional new trucks beyond their currently scheduled buys if Congress were to incentivize these purchases by suspending the FET.

This economic crisis has hit manufacturing workers hard as many companies announced significant layoffs when coronavirus struck. We need economic policies that restore and create manufacturing jobs as well as incentivize spending to stimulate the economy.

I urge you, for the sake of the 40,000 UAW members who work in heavy truck and supplier parts manufacturing and for the 7.8 million American workers employed in truck-related jobs to temporarily suspend the 12 percent FET levied on the purchase of all new Class 8 trucks until the end of 2021. Time is of the essence and strong and decisive measures are needed in order to create a pathway for a speedy, equitable and sustained economic recovery.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ray Curry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "R" and "C".

Ray Curry
Secretary-Treasurer and Director
UAW Heavy Truck Department