



**Mary B. Phillips**  
Senior Vice President  
Legislative Affairs

March 8, 2013

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Majority Whip  
United States House of Representatives

Dear Majority Whip McCarthy:

**RE: H.R. 803, the SKILLS Act**

On behalf of the American Trucking Associations (ATA), I urge you to support passage of H.R. 803, the Supporting Knowledge and Investing in Lifelong Skills (SKILLS) Act.

ATA estimates that the trucking industry is currently experiencing a shortage of more than 20,000 drivers. Funding through the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) is crucial to filling that gap. WIA helped nearly 7,000 individuals receive training as professional truck drivers last year and, according to the U.S. Department of Labor, more adults receive WIA-derived training to become commercial truck drivers than any other discipline except nursing.

WIA funding is a critical funding source for individuals interested in attaining a commercial driver's license (CDL). Dislocated programs have been extremely effective in helping our industry fill critical driver positions. The SKILLS Act's consolidation and rationalization of various worker employment assistance programs into a single pool will only expand their reach by incentivizing more schools and employers to register to recruit from a larger pool of workers. Truck drivers are designated an "in-demand" job & passing the SKILLS Act will cut red tape for schools and employers training new drivers. Expanding employer representation on local workforce boards will also allow more companies than ever before an opportunity to connect into this valuable recruiting pool.

Earning one's CDL requires passage of detailed knowledge and skill tests. Many new truck drivers learn these skills by attending a training course at driver-training schools or through special programs operated by trucking companies and community colleges. WIA makes it possible for many individuals, who otherwise could not afford the tuition at a school or pay for living expenses at a motor carrier-run school, to get their CDL. In as little as 6 weeks, an individual can finish training and have a good-paying job, with benefits.

Good stuff.



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Please support passage of HR 803. The importance of educational assistance through WIA is growing in our industry and others. The trucking industry expects to bring on nearly 100,000 new drivers each year, on average, over the next 10 years. As mentioned, trucking is already experiencing a shortage of at least 20,000 drivers, a number that could grow significantly unless we can attract qualified, trained drivers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary B. Phillips". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot above the 'i' in Phillips.