



Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association

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February 5, 2018

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Meeting Request with the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association

Dear President Trump,

The Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association (OOIDA) represents 160,000 small-business truckers, who comprise 96% of registered motor carriers in the United States. Our association was founded by truckers and continues to be run by professional drivers 45 years later. We agree with your assertion that, "No one knows America like truckers know America." It is equally true that no one knows truckers like OOIDA knows truckers. We very much appreciate the support and respect you have publicly shown our industry during your first year in office, but believe it is imperative that you meet with Americans who actually drive for a living to better understand their unique challenges and address their distinctive needs.

While your administration has done a remarkable job rolling back several excessive trucking regulations, professional drivers are perplexed and disappointed that their shouts for relief from the disastrous electronic logging device (ELD) mandate have not been embraced by the White House. This \$2 billion Obama-era regulation is the most costly, disruptive and controversial trucking mandate in the history of our industry. The countless OOIDA members who supported your election reasonably believed your efforts to provide regulatory relief to truckers would begin with this expensive and harmful mandate. Now that the regulation has taken effect, many small-business truckers are frustrated and disenchanted because their serious concerns were never fully recognized or addressed.

Like no President before you, you have gone out of your way to demonstrate your support for the trucking industry and acknowledge that truckers are a critical component to relief efforts during national disasters and emergencies. However, most of your interaction with our industry has involved only representatives of large corporate motor carriers, who have vastly different legislative and regulatory priorities than the real truckers who helped get you elected. Independent drivers believe in your vision for America, but are finding it harder to remain in the

career they love because officials in Washington simply don't understand their distinctive operations, appreciate their contributions to our nation or prioritize their survival.

During your October 2017 speech on tax reform in Pennsylvania, you stated "America first means putting American truckers first." We agree whole-heartedly, but contend the best way for your administration to truly put American truckers first is to hear about their challenges and needs firsthand. Talking with professional drivers will reveal innumerable ways your administration can promote the interests of OOIDA members. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss these opportunities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd Spencer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Todd Spencer
Acting President & CEO
Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association, Inc.