



June 7, 2021

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio, Chairman
House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for INVEST in America Act

Dear Chairman DeFazio:

The American Association for Justice (AAJ) thanks you for introducing a robust and comprehensive infrastructure bill that prioritizes safety, deters injuries, and provides a much-needed update to the federal trucking insurance minimum.

Ensuring America's highways are safe for everyone is a top priority for AAJ. To that end, the bill amends the statutory federal trucking insurance minimum for general motor carriers from \$750,000 to \$2,000,000 and includes an inflation adjuster. This statutory minimum has not been amended in over 40 years, not even to keep pace with inflation. This reasonable and long over-due compromise will allow the families of people injured by negligent or reckless trucking crashes a reasonable recovery for their out-of-pocket losses, such as medical bills. Nothing costs the same as it did forty years ago—not the truck, gas, or maintenance and repairs. It is time for insurance to also protect drivers and passengers injured due to trucking negligence.

AAJ also applauds the inclusion of other provisions to enhance safety and protect workers. AAJ supports rulemaking on rear impact guards to prevent underride crashes as well as a study to consider revising the hours of service for drivers.

AAJ supports the inclusion of other important provisions that prioritize safety with respect to communities of color. Grants to states for programs that prohibit racial profiling during traffic stops as well as programs for research and training activities for implicit bias relating to racial profiling will help reduce dangerous and deadly citizen encounters with police. The INVEST Act also includes important provisions to protect the public from drunk drivers and the perils of distracted driving.

Finally, from a rail passenger safety perspective, AAJ supports the provision to eliminate AMTRAK's use of forced arbitration in the fine print of passenger tickets.

Thank you for prioritizing safety.

Sincerely,

Linda A. Lipsen
Chief Operating Office
American Association for Justice