



May 23, 2023

The Honorable Sam Graves  
Chairman  
House Committee on Transportation  
& Infrastructure  
2167 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Transportation  
& Infrastructure  
2163 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larsen:

The Consumer Brands Association commends you for your commitment to finding bipartisan solutions that will help to alleviate continued supply chain challenges on manufacturers, shippers, and consumers across the country. Our membership fully supports the comprehensive package of bills aimed at strengthening America's supply chains that will be considered by the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee today.

Consumer Brands is the trade association for the manufacturers of consumer packaged goods (CPG), representing nearly 2,000 iconic brands that make the food, beverage, cleaning, and personal care products that American consumers depend on every day. Our industry alone accounts for one-fifth of all freight shipping in the United States, and the supply chain responsible for delivering these essential products is incredibly complex. But with commonsense reforms and proposals like the legislation considered today, Congress is taking an important step toward a more resilient system.

All sixteen supply chain bills are worthy of passage by the committee, but our members are particularly supportive of the *91,000-lb. Weight Exemption Pilot Program* (H.R.3372) and the *Ocean Shipping Reform Implementation Act* (H.R.1836).

The *91,000-lb. Weight Exemption Pilot Program*, introduced by Rep. Dusty Johnson, is a safe and commonsense proposal to increase gross vehicle weight (GVW) limits on federal interstate highways. This pilot program would be an opt-in program that would require states who participate to collect data and report to the U.S. Department of Transportation, including the estimated gross weight of the vehicles participating in the pilot program at the time of any reportable accident. Further, it would require a sixth axle on participating trucks, which provides more even weight distribution, better braking, bridge formula compliance, and less road wear-and-tear compared to current trucks. This legislation will help to boost truck capacity and enhance overall efficiency throughout America's ground transportation network. That means lower costs and greater access to the trucking market for shippers, including CPG manufacturers.

Likewise, the *Ocean Shipping Reform Implementation Act* ("OSRA 2.0"), a bill by Rep. Dusty Johnson and Rep. John Garamendi, ensures the federal government is equipped with the policy and regulatory tools it needs to protect American shippers and secure the seamless operation of U.S. supply chains. Passed last year with broad bipartisan support, the *Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 2022* addressed longstanding, systemic supply chain and port disruption issues exacerbated by the pandemic. Building upon the critical policies included in last year's law,

OSRA 2.0 will continue to improve competitiveness for maritime transportation and help CPG companies efficiently produce and deliver essential products to American consumers. Stronger maritime shipping links are critical to consumers' quality of life and the growth of the U.S economy.

Consumer Brands fully supports the legislation considered by the committee today, all of which amounts to meaningful progress toward lowering consumer costs, enhancing efficiency, and increasing safety. We applaud your efforts to strengthen our nation's supply chains and urge every member of the committee to support these critical bills.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Madrecki', with a stylized, flowing script.

Tom Madrecki  
Vice President, Supply Chain & Logistics  
Consumer Brands Association