Dear Chairman Neal and Ranking Member Brady,

As the committee considers funding sources for the highway trust fund, we ask that you consider phasing out the 12 percent federal excise tax (FET) on heavy-duty trucks and replacing it with alternative sources of revenue while ensuring all users pay their fair share.

As you know, the FET on heavy-duty trucks was first implemented to help fund World War I. Because the FET is based on annual sales of heavy-duty trucks, the amount of revenue provided to the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) can vary annually. According to the American Truck Dealers, the FET on heavy-duty trucks is the most volatile source of funding to the HTF over the last 20 years. This inconsistency will continually make it harder to provide sustainable and predictable funding to the Highway Trust Fund.

The FET on heavy-duty trucks may also cause truck owners to delay upgrading to newer, more fuel-efficient trucks that have the latest emissions control technology. Additionally, new features such as automatic emergency braking and lane departure warning improve highway safety but add additional costs. The FET is therefore also a tax on the newest environmental and safety technologies.

For these reasons we urge the Committee to consider phasing out the FET and replacing it with a more stable funding mechanism that ensures all users pay their fair share and that the HTF maintains consistent revenue. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Chris Pappas
Member of Congress

Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress
Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress

Jared Golden  
Member of Congress

Collin C. Peterson  
Member of Congress

Ben McAdams  
Member of Congress

Henry Cuellar  
Member of Congress

J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress

Adam Smith  
Member of Congress

Cindy Axne  
Member of Congress

Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress

Anthony Brindisi  
Vice Chair  
Member of Congress

TJ Cox  
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David Scott  
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Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Daniel W. Lipinski  
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Angie Craig  
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Marc A. Veasey
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Josh Gottheimer
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Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress

Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress