

March 31, 2025

Her Excellency Maura Healey, Governor Office of the Governor State House, Room 280 Boston Massachusetts 02133

Honorable Ronald Mariano, Speaker Office of the Speaker of the House State House, Room 356 Boston, Massachusetts 02133 Mr. Matthew Gorzkowicz, Secretary Executive Office of Admin. & Finance State House, Room 373 Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Honorable Aaron Michlewitz, Chair House Committee on Ways and Means State House, Room 243 Boston, Massachusetts 02133 Honorable Karen Spilka, Senate President Office of the Senate President State House, Room 332 Boston, Massachusetts 02133 Honorable Michael Rodrigues, Chair Senate Committee on Ways and Means State House, Room 212 Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Dear Governor Healey, Senate President Spilka, Speaker Mariano, Chair Michlewitz, Chair Rodrigues and Secretary Gorzkowicz:

Representing end-users of medium- and heavy-duty trucks throughout the Commonwealth, we write to seek your support for delaying the Advanced Clean Truck (ACT) and Heavy-Duty Omnibus (HDO) rules in the fiscal year 2026 budget. Due to a lack of technological advances, increased costs and a lack of needed electric infrastructure necessary to support them, these two rules have already caused the free fall of the sale of medium- and heavy-duty trucks while stagnating our efforts to reduce emissions from the transportation sector in the Commonwealth. From a budgeting perspective, these rules are also costing the Commonwealth a significant reduction of tax revenue through lost sales and excise taxes.

Our organizations recognize the importance of reducing emissions in the transportation sector. For a significant number of years, the industries we represent have taken measures to reduce emissions in our business practices, facilities and truck fleets – whether through the construction of energy efficient buildings or the use of clean diesel and alternative fuel vehicles. To this last point, medium and heavy-duty trucks are essential for numerous operations, including but not limited to food distribution, manufacturing, passenger transport, construction, fuel delivery, forestry services, water treatment operations, waste collection, towing, landscaping, school transportation, snow removal and retail sales, that our organizations' members provide every day.

Unfortunately, the Commonwealth's recent implementation of the Advanced Clean Truck (ACT) rule has adversely impacted our ability to acquire sorely needed medium and heavy trucks. While these state regulations stipulate an increasing percentage of zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) truck sales starting in Model Year 2025 and stronger NOx standards effective January 1, 2026, the necessary technology and infrastructure are not yet in place to support these initiatives. Notwithstanding the significant shortage of the electric infrastructure necessary to charge them, medium and heavy-duty electric trucks remain prohibitively expensive even with their reduced capacity. Further, assuming enough electric trucks were somehow sold to meet the ACT standard, the fact remains that there exist few, if any, HDO compliant diesel trucks to purchase now or in the foreseeable future. In short, these regulations are simply ahead of technology advancements, the necessary infrastructure to support it and manufacturing capacity.

As local media have highlighted¹, the recent implementation of the ACT rule has essentially stopped the sale of new medium- and heavy-duty trucks throughout the Commonwealth. Not only does this mean that thousands of cleaner, safer trucks are not replacing older, dirtier trucks in the public and private sectors, but we are losing sales tax revenue from the same decline. Using current estimates from the decimated truck market in Massachusetts, we have already lost millions in tax revenue that could be otherwise used to fund a wide variety of important government programs during the fiscal year 2026 budget cycle.

Without the requested delay, the Commonwealth, its municipalities and the industries we represent risk suffering unintended negative consequences, including reduced tax revenues and the increased retention of older, more polluting trucks. Therefore, to effectively advance our emission reduction goals and prevent potential harm to our economy and infrastructure, we respectfully request your support for including language to delay the implementation of the ACT and HDO rules within fiscal year 2026 budget.

We appreciate your attention to this important issue and look forward to further discussions on how to achieve our shared environmental and economic objectives.

Sincerely,

28 Freight/ Freight Courier Advantage Truck Group Apple Trailer Rentals Associated Industries of Massachusetts Associated Subcontractors of Massachusetts American Trucking Association Ballard Trucks Beer Distributors of Massachusetts Cape Cod Landscape Association Commonwealth Waste Transportation **Construction Industries of Massachusetts** Goulet Trucking Insurance Marketing Agencies Jandris Block JP Noonan Kenworth NE Massachusetts Energy Marketers Association Massachusetts Forest Alliance Maine Motor Transport Association Massachusetts Concrete & Aggregate Producers Association

¹See "EV rule halts Mass. truck sales, but green groups say manufacturers are dragging feet", <u>MassLive</u>, February 24, 2025; "The technology just has not kept up': Truck sales in Mass. are at a standstill over new EV requirements", <u>Boston Globe</u>, February 19, 2025; "Heavy duty truck dealers say new electric vehicle requirement in Massachusetts is hurting sales", <u>WBZ/CBS</u>, February 20, 2025; "25 Investigates: New state regs force sales of electric trucks that 'do not exist'", <u>Fox25</u>, January 19, 2025.

Massachusetts Arborists Association

Massachusetts Association of Landscape Professionals

Massachusetts State Automobile Dealers Association

Massachusetts Chemistry & Technology Alliance, Inc.

Massachusetts Concrete & Aggregate Producers Association

Massachusetts Food Association

Massachusetts Propane Association

Massachusetts Retail Lumber Dealers Association

Motor Transport Association of Connecticut

Massachusetts Water Works Association

National Federation of Independent Business

National Waste and Recycling Association

New England Bus Association

New England Concrete Manufacturers Association

New England Convenience Store & Energy Marketers Association

New England Livery Association

New England Sports Field Management Association

Northeast Great Dane

One Energy Transport

Propane Gas Association of New England

Regency Transportation

Retailers Association of Massachusetts

Rhode Island Trucking Association

Rich's Transportation

RV Industry Association

Salvoni Transportation

School Transportation Association of Massachusetts

Spinning Wheels Express

Statewide Towing Association, Inc.

The PETE Store

Trucking Association of Massachusetts

Trucking Association of New York

Truck Rental and Leasing Association

UPS

Utility Contractors Association of New England, Inc.

WL French

Wyson Trucking

cc:

Ms. Rebecca Tepper, Secretary

Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Ms. Bonnie Heiple, Commissioner

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection