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Trucking Association Executives Council (TAEC)

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Trucking Industry Federation Releases Comprehensive Plan to Eliminate Bad Actors and Restore Fair Competition

State Trucking Associations from Across America Release Blueprint to Combat Fraud, Enhance Safety, and Pave the Way for a Trucking Resurgence.

In an impactful show of solidarity, a broad group of state and national trucking associations from across the country today released a comprehensive policy blueprint to eliminate bad actors who exploit regulatory gaps, undermine safety, and create unfair competitive advantages in the commercial trucking industry. The action plan, *The Fight for Fairness and Safety: Paving the Way for a Trucking Resurgence*, addresses seven critical areas where fraudulent and illegal operators undercut law-abiding businesses, endanger public safety, and damage the reputation and morale of America's professional truck drivers.

The Trucking Association Executive Council (TAEC), which developed the action plan through a special task force, is comprised of trucking leaders from coast to coast. The initiative comes as the trucking industry nationwide faces daunting freight demand, frivolous attacks from plaintiff's trial lawyers, and unfair competition from illegal operators who manipulate licensing systems, engage in freight fraud, tamper with safety records, and operate outside legal boundaries.

"America's trucking industry is built on the hard work of family-owned businesses, independent owner-operators, and professional drivers who play by the rules. But bad actors and illegal operators who exploit loopholes in our regulatory systems are putting everyone at risk... This is unacceptable," said Mark Colson, President and CEO of the Alabama Trucking Association and TAEC Task Force Chair. "We are focused on solutions and resolute on seeing them implemented. By doing so, we will save lives, save small businesses and set the table for a trucking resurgence in America."

The *Trucking Resurgence* action plan identifies seven major vulnerabilities that bad actors exploit:

1. **CDL Integrity** – Closing loopholes in commercial driver licensing
2. **MCMIS Overhaul** – Fixing America's broken trucking safety data system
3. **Cross-Border Integrity** – Assuring workforce integrity at our borders
4. **Non-Domiciled CDL Reform** – Strengthening oversight and enforcement
5. **English Language Proficiency** – Closing critical CDL safety gaps

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The Trucking Association Executives Council (TAEC) is comprised of state trucking association and industry association executives from around the United States with the mission of promoting the trucking industry and improving the associations and organizations established to serve the trucking industry.

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6. Combating Trucking Fraud – Addressing broker and carrier fraud schemes

7. Electronic Log Integrity – Ending ELD manipulation and hours-of-service fraud

The action plan emphasizes that most of the solutions are immediately actionable and do not require long, drawn-out legislation or rule makings. Most involve technology-driven solutions, including AI-powered data analysis to detect fraudulent patterns, integrated databases to prevent operator schemes, and enhanced verification systems to ensure regulatory compliance. These reforms would not create new burdens for legitimate operators but would leverage existing data more effectively to identify and eliminate bad actors.

John Esparza, President and CEO of the Texas Trucking Association and TAEAC Task Force member added: *"This isn't about adding red tape – it's about using smart technology to level the playing field. When carriers and drivers who follow safety rules and invest in driver training compete against operators who cut every corner, the bad guys win and everyone else loses. These reforms protect American jobs and save lives."*

The action plan builds on recent federal actions, including Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy's order strictly enforcing English language proficiency requirements and another order cracking down on the issuance of non-domiciled CDLs, many of which were issued improperly or illegally. These actions resulted in unsafe drivers being removed from the roadways. The TAEAC recommendations would extend similar accountability measures across all identified problem areas.

State trucking association leaders collectively represent more than 521 years of individual experience serving the trucking industry. Combined, these organizations have existed for 4,825 years, with the average state trucking association having served the industry for 87 years. This network and the TAEAC task force that developed these recommendations brings extraordinary depth of experience to this work.

"These commonsense reforms are supported by trucking leaders from across America – from the East Coast to the West Coast, from the South to the Upper Midwest," emphasized Rebecca Oyler, President of the Pennsylvania Motor Truck Association and TAEAC Task Force member. *"We are calling on the appropriate government agencies and all supply chain partners, from shippers and brokers to insurance companies and trucking fleets, to come together to put these solutions into action."*

Members of the Federation will continue advocacy with federal and state officials to ensure that progress is made on each of these areas. Regardless of how long or any challenges that exist, the Federation remains committed to paving the way for a trucking resurgence.

"No single state or agency can solve these challenges alone; federal and state collaboration is essential. Our federation is uniquely positioned to engage government and supply chain partners at all levels on a unified plan that restores CDL integrity, protects public safety, and ensures a level playing field for the industry," concluded Ed Gilroy, Chief Advocacy Officer, American Trucking Associations.

The full report is available at www.truckingresurgence.com

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