

May 19, 2026

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman
House Transportation & Infrastructure
Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
House Transportation & Infrastructure
Committee
Washington, DC 20515

RE: NRF Support for the BUILD America 250 Act

Dear Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larsen,

On behalf of the National Retail Federation, I write to express support for the BUILD America 250 Act and to urge Congress to advance this important surface transportation reauthorization measure. The legislation's emphasis on moving people, goods and freight safely and efficiently, along with its investment in roads, bridges, rail and freight infrastructure, reflects the central role that a modern transportation network plays in supporting economic growth, supply chain resilience and consumer access to essential goods.

NRF, the world's largest retail trade association, passionately advocates for the people, brands, policies and ideas that help retail succeed. NRF empowers the industry that powers the economy. Retail is the nation's largest private-sector employer, contributing \$5.3 trillion to annual GDP and supporting one in four U.S. jobs — 55 million working Americans. For over a century, NRF has been a voice for every retailer and every retail job, educating, inspiring and communicating the powerful impact retail has on local communities and global economies.

U.S. retailers are among the country's largest shippers, moving hundreds of billions of dollars in merchandise through their supply chains on a daily basis. The condition of the U.S. freight transportation system is vital to American competitiveness — especially the retail industry, which must be able to deliver goods to the consumer at bricks-and-mortar stores or through direct-to-consumer options. Retailers rely on a multimodal system, including planes, trucks, railroads and vessels, to make that happen. The bill's focus on strategic federal investments that reduce bottlenecks, improve first- and last-mile connectivity, modernize freight corridors and accelerate project delivery will help lower transportation costs, improve inventory reliability, and keep products affordable and available for families and communities across the country.

We applaud the inclusion of new technology such as autonomous vehicles in the legislation. It is important to ensure the ability to utilize autonomous vehicles in a safe and efficient manner. In addition, retail carriers [or fleets supporting retail] would also benefit greatly from modernizing FMCSA and state CDL systems so carriers can verify driver credentials, medical certification status and carrier safety data in real time through standardized records and secure API-based data access.

We also appreciate the recognition of the significant threat of cargo theft to the supply chain and the economy at large. Organized cargo theft and related supply chain crime disrupt deliveries, endanger workers and drivers, increase costs throughout the distribution network, and ultimately raise prices for consumers. Actions to stem organized retail crime and cargo theft have been a priority for NRF. The creation of the advisory committee on cargo theft and freight fraud will help those efforts and build upon the Combating Organized Retail Crime Act that the House just passed.

Investments in infrastructure are most effective when the freight network is not only more efficient, but also more secure. A transportation system that reduces congestion, supports dependable freight flows and protects cargo in transit will strengthen national competitiveness and help ensure that businesses of all sizes can serve customers in every region of the country.

For these reasons, NRF urges the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee to support the BUILD America 250 Act and advance the bill to the House floor. By pairing long-term infrastructure investment with practical measures to strengthen supply chain security, Congress can help build a safer, more efficient and more resilient economy. If you have any questions, please contact me or Jonathan Gold, NRF's vice president for supply chain and customs policy (goldj@nrf.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David French". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "D" and a cursive "French".

David French
Executive Vice President, Government Relations

cc: Members of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee