



May 19, 2026

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman
U.S. House Committee on Transportation &
Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Transportation &
Infrastructure
2164 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larsen:

On behalf of the International Foodservice Distributors Association (IFDA), I write to express our strong support for the *Building Unrivaled Infrastructure and Long-term Development (BUILD) for America's 250th Act*. We appreciate your bipartisan leadership in crafting this important legislation, and we are particularly supportive of Sections 5104 and 7109, which address workforce development for young professional truck drivers and cargo theft, respectively.

IFDA is a non-profit trade association representing the essential backbone of the foodservice supply chain. Our members deliver safe, high-quality ingredients and supplies that enable people to eat away from home—at restaurants, schools, hospitals, and more. As the vital link between producers and preparers, IFDA members provide timely deliveries, trusted operational support, and tailored solutions that help foodservice businesses thrive. Our industry is a \$400 billion economic engine, employing 431,000 people, including 135,000 drivers, across over 17,000 distribution centers in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Foodservice distributors depend on safe and seamless highways, bridges, ports, rail connections, and intermodal infrastructure to provide approximately 33 million cases of food and related products to more than one million professional kitchens across America every day. The *BUILD America 250 Act* will help to strengthen our nation's transportation infrastructure and provide the certainty needed to improve capacity, reduce bottlenecks, and enhance safety, keeping our supply chains efficient, reliable, and competitive.

In addition, we support two key provisions—Sections 5104 and 7109—that address issues affecting our industry.

Although 49 states and the District of Columbia allow individuals under the age of 21 to obtain a commercial driver's license (CDL) and operate in intrastate commerce, these same individuals are prohibited from driving a truck across state lines or carrying interstate loads until they turn 21. With anticipated driver retirements and expected growth in capacity over the next decade, a pipeline of well-equipped professional drivers is needed to ensure safe, seamless, efficient, and resilient food supply chains into the future. In 2021, Congress recognized this need and established a three-year pilot program at the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to allow 18- to 20-year-old CDL holders to operate commercial motor vehicles in interstate commerce after meeting rigorous safety and training requirements under the supervision of experienced professional drivers. However, authorization for this pilot, the Safe Driver Apprenticeship Pilot Program, expired in November 2025, so we are pleased Section 5104 of the *BUILD America 250 Act* will extend the program for another five years.

Separately, this bill addresses the growing problem of cargo theft throughout the supply chain that puts workers' safety at risk and leads to higher prices for consumers. Reported cargo theft incidents rose by 18 percent in 2025 compared with the previous year, with the average value of a stolen load surging 36 percent to nearly \$274,000. Food and beverage shipments are now the most frequently targeted commodities, due to their high resale value and the difficulty of tracing consumables, once stolen. Therefore, we support Section 7109 of the bill that creates an advisory committee to advise the Administration on combating cargo theft and freight fraud.

IFDA is proud to support the *BUILD America 250 Act*, and we urge all members of the Committee to vote in favor of it.

Sincerely,



Mala Parker

Senior Vice President, Government & Public Affairs