

SUSTAINABLE SUPPLY CHAIN

POLICY POSITION

ISSUE:

Nearly all commerce in the United States, at some point, relies on motor carriers (trucking) to reach its final destination. Currently, the average age of a truck driver in the U.S. is 55 and this number is only expected to increase due to the lack of younger workers entering the profession. This dilemma has put pressure on the convenience services industry's ability to function efficiently and effectively.

A shortage in drivers has disproportionately impacted foodservice distribution which requires the timely delivery of tens of thousands of products each day to the convenience services industry. Further complicating matters, commercial drivers are currently stymied by laws, which in most states allow individuals to obtain a commercial driver's license at age 18 but prevent those operators from moving goods from state to state (interstate) until reaching 21 years of age. This restriction on interstate deliveries is particularly problematic in regions near state borders and is negatively impacting the timely delivery of food and beverage products to NAMA's core member, the convenience services operator.

NAMA POSITION:

NAMA supports a common-sense approach to creating opportunity and careers for younger entrants to the trucking profession and simplifying complex regulations to allow a freer movement of goods across the country. NAMA believes that increased flexibilities proposed in The Drive Safe Act (HR 1374 & S 569) would assist in resolving issues related to the timely delivery of food and beverage products in the convenience services industry and other retail distribution channels supported by NAMA member companies.

NAMA encourages the House and Senate to pass The Drive Safe Act (HR 1374 & S 569) which would:

- Entice younger drivers to join the industry by creating additional earning opportunities.
- Train younger drivers above current standards.
- Require state of the art safety technology in all training vehicles.
- Right-size laws related to the movement of interstate commerce.