

Why FRA Supports the DRIVE-Safe Act Apprenticeship Pilot Program

September 2021



DRIVE-Safe Act Apprenticeship Pilot Program:

- The country is facing a massive truck driver shortage which is increasing the costs of consumer goods and hurting the economy.
- The DRIVE -Safe Act Apprenticeship Pilot Program addresses the truck driver shortage which is impacting the transportation of forest logs and products.
- Provides a pathway to well-paid jobs for young adults seeking a career while keeping our roads safe.
- Creates a supervised apprenticeship program for potential drivers that are under 21 years of age.
- Keeps the wood supply chain competitive.

- The forest products industry ranks among the top 10 manufacturing sectors in 45 states and supports 2.4 million jobs through the supply chain.
- The forest products industry relies on the transport of logs, wood chips, and biomass from the woods to the mill. Access to truck drivers is critical to supply mills with essential raw materials at competitive costs.
- Hauling of logs is in the top five commodities in 15 states based on weight.
- In the U.S., more than 13 million individual truck deliveries are needed annually to supply the fiber for the forest products economy.
- The country is facing a massive truck driver shortage, which is increasing the costs of consumer goods and hurting the economy.
- The DRIVE-Safe Act Apprenticeship Pilot Program, located in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, addresses the truck driver shortage by allowing young people (under 21) with an interest in truck driving to become employed in jobs with good pay and benefits.
- If successful, this program would remove the single biggest regulatory barrier underlying the truck driver shortage: the recruitment of young drivers.
- The apprenticeship pilot program would assess the safety concerns of allowing these young drivers on the roads. This pilot program requires young drivers to have additional training and behind-the-wheel drive time in a commercial motor vehicle accompanied by an experienced driver.
- The information gathered from the pilot study will be used to determine if and how young drivers can safely drive commercial motor vehicles between states.

Request:

- ❖ Support the DRIVE-Safe Act Apprenticeship Pilot Program in the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

About FRA:

The Forest Resources Association (FRA) represents the interests of nearly 320 organizations and businesses in the forest products industry. Our members include forest landowners, suppliers, consuming mills, associated businesses, and state forestry associations.

The Mission of FRA is to promote the interests of its members in the economic, efficient, and sustainable use of forest resources to meet the needs of the wood fiber supply chain through private enterprise. FRA members are represented in 49 states and 377 congressional districts.

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