

October 17, 2023

The Honorable Bernie Sanders
Chair
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and
Pensions
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC, 20510

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and
Pensions
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC, 20510

Re: Support for the Modern Worker Empowerment Act

Dear Chair Sanders and Ranking Member Cassidy:

On behalf of the Intermodal Association of North America (IANA), a leading transportation trade association representing the combined interests of the intermodal freight industry, I am writing to express our support for the Modern Worker Empowerment Act (S. 3018).

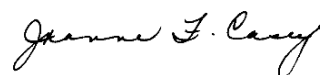
IANA represents more than 1,000 corporate members, including railroads, ocean carriers, ports, intermodal truckers and over-the-road highway carriers, intermodal marketing and logistic companies, and suppliers to the industry. IANA's associate (non-voting) members include shippers (defined as the beneficial owners of the freight to be shipped), academic institutions, government entities, and non-profit trade associations.

For decades, the prevailing business model for intermodal trucking companies that transport freight has involved the use of independent contractors. In fact, over 80 percent of intermodal trucking companies have used owner-operators. The independent contractor business model is essential to the intermodal industry, offering operational and financial flexibility to motor carriers, allowing them to adapt and respond to natural elasticity and volatility in the cargo transportation market. Attempts to eliminate or restrict the independent contractor model would have a negative effect not only on the intermodal industry, but the entire supply chain.

Each owner-operator makes a conscious decision to remain an independent contractor, but also has the freedom and ability to secure full-time employment in the trucking industry at any time. By tailoring schedules and opportunities to accommodate individual needs, owner-operators provide safe, efficient, and cost-effective service that contributes to our nation's economic growth. The Modern Worker Empowerment Act offers much-needed certainty, clarity, and consistency to the classification of independent contractors, preserving this critical business model that has served both the industry and drivers well for over 40 years.

Earlier this year, IANA published a white paper that explores the indispensable nature of the independent contractor model to the intermodal industry. I have attached a copy of this paper for your reference and use as appropriate in discussing the importance of the Modern Worker Empowerment Act. Please let me know if you or your staff would like to discuss our position in further detail.

Sincerely,



Joanne F. Casey
President and CEO
Intermodal Association of North America

CC: The Honorable Tim Scott

Attachment