



**One Hundred Seventeenth Congress
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515**

November 12, 2021

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

I am concerned that enforcement of Federal cabotage law is not uniform across the United States and that the lack of enforcement in Maine is hurting American workers. I write to urge you to help address this critical issue.

As you know, under cabotage law, Canadian and Mexican drivers may deliver a load from the country of origin and pick up a subsequent load to take back across the border for delivery within the country of origin. However, use of foreign drivers to pick up a load within the U.S. and deliver that load to another location within the United States, or “point-to-point hauling,” is not permitted.¹ This law is intended to protect American loggers from illegal competition at our northern and southern borders. Inconsistent or inadequate enforcement of the law hurts American workers.

It is my understanding that the lack of enforcement of cabotage law in Maine has depressed wages, caused workers to lose employment opportunities, and adversely affected the industry. I was disappointed to learn that Maine truckers and their elected officials have pleaded for years for enforcement of cabotage law, but their requests and concerns have been met with insufficient action. The law is in place to protect workers on both sides of our borders, and failing to enforce it can have a devastating effect on the workers and small businesses that employ them.

Maine workers deserve the same protection as other American workers and their counterparts in Canada and Mexico. I look forward to working with you and your Executive Branch colleagues to improve enforcement and protect American workers, consistent with U.S. cabotage law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bennie G. Thompson".

Bennie G. Thompson
Chairman

Cc: The Honorable Martin J. Walsh
Secretary of Labor

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation

¹ U.S. Department of Homeland Security. [Guidelines for Compliance of Commercial Motor Vehicles \(CMV\) and CMV Drivers Engaged in Cross-Border Traffic](#) (May 2012).