

## Recognizing the contributions of truck drivers

During Labor Day weekend, America's truck drivers were working to safely deliver food, refreshments, beach toys and more to communities in [INSERT STATE] and across the country. These hardworking professionals went from one stop to the next, making deliveries door-to-door at local stores and then getting right back on the road to safely travel to the next destination, to make sure you and your family had everything you'd need for our holiday weekend celebrations.

For me, and the rest of America's 3.5 million professional truck drivers, delivering during Labor Day weekend is just another work day. These hardworking men and women travel our roads year-round, including on holidays, weekends and nights, to deliver the goods that keep our lives supplied and the economy moving forward. We travel over 4.5 billion collective miles a year, regardless of weather conditions or terrible traffic, and some of us often spend days, or even weeks, away from family and friends.

Here in [STATE], we rely on truck drivers to deliver all our essential goods that help us live, including our food, clothing, medication and gas. **In fact, more than XX percent of communities in [STATE] rely exclusively on trucks for the delivery of their goods.** The trucking industry is also a driver of our economy, making deliveries that local businesses rely on, and contributing \$738.9 in revenue a year. **The trucking industry also provides XX jobs in [STATE].**

While we see trucks on a regular basis, we don't always appreciate their value. During National Truck Driver Appreciation Week, September 9-15, we say thank you to [STATE]'s truck drivers for their commitment to our neighborhoods and businesses. Without truck drivers, there would be no deliveries to our businesses, hospitals or schools. Our lives – and our nation's economy – would essentially come to a standstill.

As you're on the way to work or running important errands, driving next to a large truck can be intimidating, but you should know that the trucking professional behind the wheel is well-trained and committed to your safety. Sharing the road with you is not a responsibility that any of us take lightly. We always aim to remain calm and operate at safe speeds and distances, and we pride ourselves on our safety records of millions of accident free miles.

We also take great pride in the industry's safety initiatives and efforts. You may not be aware, but every year, the industry provides at least \$9.5 billion to ensure the most modern trucks with up-to-date safety tools and environmental protections are on the road.

During National Truck Driver Appreciation week, I hope you'll join me in thanking my fellow drivers on the road. A simple smile or wave to say thanks would go a long way and could make someone's day. You never know, the truck driver next to you could be your neighbor or friend.

*NAME*

*Professional Truck Driver, CITY, STATE*

*COMPANY NAME & Member, Trucking Moves America Forward*