



AMERICAN TRUCKING ASSOCIATIONS

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www.truckline.com



Bill Graves
President and Chief Executive Officer

May 11, 2010

Thomas M. O'Brien
Managing Director, President & CEO
TravelCenters of America
24601 Center Ridge Road
Westlake, OH 44145

Dear Mr. O'Brien,

The American Trucking Associations (ATA) has learned that several Petro and TravelCenters of America (TA) locations are serving alcohol in their restaurants on a test basis, and that TA may be considering expanding alcohol sales to other locations. On behalf of the members of the ATA – many of whom are your customers – I am writing to ask that your organization reconsider this decision.

Highway safety is ATA's top priority, and the trucking industry has made tremendous strides in improving its safety record. In part, this progress is the result of programs and regulations which, among other things, attempt to prevent truck drivers from operating a commercial vehicle under the influence of alcohol. We are very concerned that TA, one of the industry's premier service providers, has adopted an alcohol sales policy, at least on a test marketing basis, which could undermine the trucking industry's safety progress. We hope that TA will recognize the risk that it is imposing on all motorists by serving alcohol at locations patronized by large numbers of commercial vehicle drivers, and we hope that TA will make a decision to end this practice.

If TA chooses not to reverse its policy, ATA urges TA to take steps to prevent the consumption of alcohol by commercial drivers. One option is to have TA and Petro personnel check the identification of all customers who order alcohol, and refuse service to patrons who provide a Commercial Driver's License (CDL). While each state's CDL looks slightly different in appearance, each is required by federal regulation to prominently display the words "Commercial Driver's License," or "CDL." And, as you may know, CDL holders may not hold a non-CDL driver's license, so a truck driver will not have the option of providing another non-commercial driver's license.

ATA has a long-standing policy against alcohol sales at truck stops. We have this policy because we believe it is the right policy for this industry, and for highway safety. I hope you understand ATA's concerns and will reconsider this decision.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Bill Graves

Good stuff.

