



AMERICAN TRUCKING ASSOCIATIONS

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ENERGY POLICY AND FUEL COSTS

RECOMMENDATIONS TO REDUCE DEMAND

Recognizing that reducing the Nation's consumption of diesel fuel will reduce over demand for petroleum, the American Trucking Associations (ATA) supports the following initiatives to reduce diesel fuel consumption:

- ATA supports federal funding for research and development in the areas of new engine technologies, aerodynamics, low-carbon fuels, fuel additives, lubricity, tires, batteries, hybrids, insulation, and rolling resistance specific to operations of medium- and heavy-duty trucks.
- ATA supports the establishment of a national speed limit of 65 mph for all vehicles. Additionally, ATA supports a requirement that all new trucks be equipped with devices to limit the truck's maximum speed to 68 mph.
- ATA supports federal incentives for the purchase of auxiliary power units (APUs) that help reduce engine idling by providing climate control, engine preheating, battery charging and power for household accessories without use of the truck's main engine.
- ATA supports congressional efforts to fully fund the EPA's SmartWaySM Program.
- ATA supports congressional efforts to ensure that fuel economy standards for commercial medium- and heavy-duty trucks are technologically and economically feasible, do not compromise truck performance and provide manufacturers sufficient lead time for production.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO INCREASE SUPPLY

ATA supports efforts to increase of domestic supply the crude oil in an environmentally responsible manner. Additionally, ATA supports an increase in domestic refining capacity. Finally, ATA supports one national diesel fuel standard and encourages Congress to take steps to ensure that no state enacts a boutique diesel fuel mandate. These unique blends are typically produce by only a handful of refineries, which results in less competition, higher refining margins, and ultimately higher fuel prices.

ENSURE PETROLEUM MARKET TRANSPARENCY TO PREVENT EXCESSIVE SPECULATION

The American Trucking Associations (ATA) believe that excessive speculation is, indeed, part of the problem and recommend that Congress take steps to increase the transparency of the petroleum exchanges and establish reasonable position limits to prevent excessive speculation. At a minimum, Congress should require the Commodities Future Trading Commission (CFTC) to increase its oversight of the petroleum markets to the same extent that it regulates other commodity trading activities. Reasonable position limits should be imposed that ensure the ability of consumers of the underlying commodity to effectively hedge market risk while limiting excessive speculation from investors that have begun using the futures markets for asset accumulation.

Good stuff.

