



Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association, Inc.

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June 15, 2016

The Honourable Brian Mason
Minister of Infrastructure, Government House Leader
Office of the Minister
Infrastructure
320 Legislative Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Mason:

As you may know, there is a shortage of safe and secure commercial truck parking in Canada. Overall, very little has been done to address the widespread parking needs of truck drivers and it creates tremendous inefficiencies in our freight network and affects everyone that depends on the goods that trucks deliver.

The Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association (OOIDA) is the largest trade association representing the views of small-business trucking professionals and professional truck drivers. OOIDA has more than 157,000 members in the United States and Canada, including 207 who reside in Alberta. In short, we represent a significant number of people that actually drive a truck on a regular basis.

Truck drivers need to find safe and secure parking for a variety of reasons: waiting to load, transfer, or unload cargo; comply with hours-of-service regulations; get a bite to eat; resolve maintenance issues; avoid hazardous weather events; use the phone; go to the restroom; look at a map, etc. However, in some parts of Canada, it can be very difficult to find parking. As a result, truck drivers generally have two options: park illegally or operate illegally.

We are hopeful that there will be a renewed effort to pursue truck parking solutions. Reasonable and cost-effective solutions do exist even under budgetary constraints, especially considering the increased risks to public safety due to a lack of truck parking.

We also know that you can't solve this issue on your own. Indeed, any meaningful and long term solution will likely require a combination of efforts from the public sector, the private sector, and public-private partnerships.

With that in mind, the purpose of this letter is to ask for your help, and offer our help, to address the shortage of commercial truck parking. To the extent possible, our goal is to ensure truck parking is considered in long term planning efforts, prevent the closure of existing truck parking areas, and explore the feasibility of any potential opportunity to add additional truck parking.

If you are interested in helping address the parking needs of our professional drivers, please contact me directly at (816) 229-5791 ext. 1603 or mike_matousek@ooida.com. Thank you for your time and we look forward to hearing from and working with you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mike Matousek".

Mike Matousek
Director of State Legislative Affairs
OOIDA