

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 9, 2026

The Honorable Josh Stein
Governor of North Carolina
1 E. Edenton St
Raleigh, NC 27601

Dear Governor Stein,

We write to express our profound concern and disappointment regarding the administration of the Commercial Driver's License (CDL) program in North Carolina. A recent study conducted by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) found that approximately 54 percent of CDLs were improperly issued, including cases in which the state issued non-domiciled CDLs without verifying an applicant's lawful presence in the United States. Federal reviewers identified multiple instances where licenses were issued despite missing or inadequate documentation, reflecting a clear failure of oversight by your administration over the state's handling of non-domiciled applicants. This is not merely an administrative oversight; it represents a critical public safety failure with potentially devastating consequences for families, commuters, and professional drivers across the state.

Operating large commercial vehicles requires specialized training, skill, and judgment. When unqualified individuals are allowed to obtain CDLs, the likelihood of accidents, serious injuries, and fatalities increases dramatically. The fact that such a large percentage of licenses may have been improperly issued raises urgent concerns that unqualified drivers are currently operating on North Carolina's roads, endangering everyone who shares the highway. Beyond these safety risks, continued noncompliance with federal CDL requirements places North Carolina at risk of having federal transportation funding withheld. According to the FMCSA, beginning in fiscal year 2027, the state could lose up to approximately \$48.75 million in federal highway funding, with losses rising to nearly \$97.5 million annually in subsequent years if these deficiencies persist. This funding is essential for road maintenance, safety improvements, and critical infrastructure projects statewide.

Therefore we urge your administration to take immediate and decisive corrective action. This must include revoking all improperly issued CDLs without delay, reviewing and strengthening testing and verification procedures, implementing rigorous oversight mechanisms, and ensuring accountability for any failures in the program. Additionally, we request a comprehensive audit of the state's CDL program to guarantee that only fully qualified and competent drivers are licensed. These actions are essential not only to protect the safety of motorists and commercial operators alike, but also to restore public trust in North Carolina's transportation system and maintain compliance with federal standards.

We respectfully request an explanation of how such a significant breakdown in the CDL program occurred, so that meaningful corrective measures can be taken to rectify this. The safety of North Carolina residents, the integrity of the CDL program, and the preservation of vital federal funding depend on your immediate and decisive attention to this matter. The residents of North Carolina deserve no less than a thorough and transparent resolution to this alarming revelation.

Sincerely,



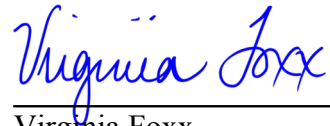
Pat Harrigan
Member of Congress



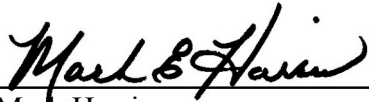
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