Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Date

**Submission to Senate Inquiry - Importance of a viable, safe, sustainable and efficient road transport industry**

I would like to make a submission regarding the Senate Inquiry into the Importance of a viable, safe, sustainable and efficient road transport industry.

I am a driver and a member of the TWU. (Please tell them a little about yourself, how long driving, where you work, what you cart, what you drive/operate, anything that helps them understand your position and experience and what you do)

I would like to highlight the following issues that affect me:

(Delete any that don’t apply, and please add more details about how these affect you, and what you think should be done). You don’t have to use them all, pick a few that really matter or add your own.

* Not enough pay to support my family
* Pressure to meet deadlines, speed and skip rest breaks
* I struggle to recover costs which means I either don’t make any money or I have to forgo vehicle maintenance
* Investigations into fatal truck crashes don’t go far enough. Chain of Responsibility laws are not doing enough to highlight the problem throughout the supply chain
* Being targeted by police with fines for breaches that are often out of my control
* It’s hard to be isolated and spend so much time away from family
* Lack of negotiating power for better pay and conditions because of the pressure on the operator
* Lack of training for new drivers
* I don’t always get paid for waiting times or loading and unloading
* Long payment terms
* Pay and conditions are getting worse, not better. We need minimum standards.
* My health is affected by my work and there is a lack of healthcare specific to the needs of truck drivers
* We need better access to mental health services
* Unsafe or unmaintained roads
* There aren’t enough truck stops and those that there are have unhealthy and expensive food and drink

Please contact me if you would like more information. (Remove if you don’t want to be contacted)

(Your details and your submission are publicly available on the Senate Inquiry page unless you request otherwise. Your request for confidentiality is up to the Committee to decide.)

Yours sincerely

Your name and contact info