

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1312

MIKE BOST
12TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN

TRANSPORTATION &
INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

352 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5661

205 EAST HARNETT STREET
MASCOUTAH, IL 62258
(618) 622-0766

1109 CHESTNUT STREET
MURPHYSBORO, IL 62966
(618) 457-5787

101 N 4TH ST, SUITE 302
EFFINGHAM, IL 62401
(217) 240-3170

February 18, 2026

The Honorable Sean Duffy
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
West Building – 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Duffy:

I am reaching out to support the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) BUILD grant application to increase truck parking capacity at Illinois rest areas, including the Fort Massac rest area in my district, making roadways safer for workers and travelers. If awarded, BUILD funding will be used to expand truck parking in the state by 88 stalls in total, with 47 stalls being added at the Fort Massac rest area along Interstate 24 in Massac County, and with 41 stalls (including four ADA-compliant stalls) being added at the Salt Kettle rest area along Interstate 74 in Vermilion County.

IDOT's 2020 Safety Rest Area Management Plan indicated that demand for truck parking along interstate corridors exceeds state capacity by 57 percent. In the study, it was determined that 27 of 39 studied rest areas exceed capacity, and most stalls are full overnight with parking continuing along entries and exits to the facilities. Both rest areas are located in areas with high demand for truck parking and are on the 10-year plan for renovations due to their need for expanded parking.

Improving truck parking is critical to the state and the nation as it keeps ramps free from visual obstructions and reduces fatigue-related crashes, which have been identified as a problem in these corridors. According to the National Safety Council, from 2017 to 2021, 17.6 percent of all fatal crashes in the United States involved a fatigued driver, and these projects represent Illinois' proactive effort to reduce this risk for drivers on Illinois interstates.

As someone who grew up in a family trucking company and as a driver myself, I know the challenges that truckers face – time pressures, lack of sleep, and too often, nowhere to stop for the night. The trucking industry is facing a crisis of not enough safe and secure truck parking spots in the country to meet the federally mandated rest periods required of truck drivers. This BUILD grant begins to address that problem by narrowing the gap between the number of trucks on the roadways and parking stalls within Illinois. I urge your full consideration of IDOT's application to improve truck parking in the state of Illinois.

Sincerely,



Mike Bost
Member of Congress