



## Issue Brief: SAFER Act Introduction

Senator Todd Young (R-IN) introduced the Securing American Freight, Enforcement, and Reliability in Transport (SAFER Transport) Act. This legislation is a direct response to the "epidemic" of cargo theft and sophisticated identity fraud currently targeting motor carriers.

The bill aims to modernize the FMCSA's registration systems and provide law enforcement with the tools necessary to shut down "chameleon carriers" and overseas scammers.

The trucking industry is currently locked in a high-tech arms race. Criminals are no longer just breaking padlocks; they are stealing company identities to divert freight.

- **Financial Impact:** Cargo theft costs the industry an estimated \$18 million per day.
- **Strategic Theft:** Cyber-based fraud and identity manipulation have surged by 1,500% since 2021.
- **Systemic Weakness:** Criminals are exploiting the FMCSA's outdated SAFER system to create "cloned" companies, brokering loads under the names of legitimate carriers and disappearing with the cargo.

In testimony before Congress, one trucking company owner described how scammers created a "fake" version of his company on the FMCSA website. Despite alerting authorities, the agency initially refused to remove the imposter, leaving the legitimate business to deal with the reputational fallout.

### Key Provisions of the SAFER Transport Act

Feature	Action Plan
<b>System Security</b>	Modernizes the FMCSA registration process to prevent identity theft.
<b>Streamlining ID</b>	Phases out old MC numbers in favor of a single, secure USDOT number.
<b>Tougher Penalties</b>	Increases criminal penalties for fraudulent certifications and "CDL mills."
<b>Closing Loopholes</b>	Targets foreign dispatch services and unauthorized "cabotage" (illegal point-to-point hauling by foreign carriers).
<b>Enhanced Oversight</b>	Improves fraud detection tools and interagency coordination to track stolen freight.

## Why This Matters for Wisconsin Carriers

With over 90% of trucking fleets operating 10 trucks or fewer, Wisconsin's small business carriers are the most vulnerable. These "family-owned" businesses often lack the cybersecurity budgets to fight international crime syndicates alone.

This legislation provides the "backup" necessary to:

1. Protect your company's hard-earned reputation.
2. Ensure that FMCSA data is accurate and shielded from hackers.
3. Hold scammers accountable through federal enforcement rather than leaving carriers to play "whack-a-mole" with fraudsters.

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## Next Steps

The WMCA, in coordination with the American Trucking Associations (ATA), will continue to monitor this bill as it moves through the Senate Commerce Committee. If you'd like to write your congressional representatives to express your support for this federal legislation, feel free to use the language provided below.

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Dear [Senator/Representative Last Name],

As a constituent, I am writing to urge your support for the Securing American Freight, Enforcement, and Reliability in Transport (SAFER Transport) Act.

Wisconsin's trucking industry is the backbone of our state's economy, but we are currently under siege by high-tech criminal syndicates. Fraudsters are exploiting outdated USDOT registration systems to "clone" legitimate company identities, resulting in cargo theft that costs our industry over \$18 million per day. Even a single stolen load or a hijacked identity can be a business-ending event.

The SAFER Transport Act provides critical "backup" for our industry by:

- **Securing the FMCSA registration system** to prevent identity theft.
- **Modernizing identifiers** by phasing out outdated MC numbers.
- **Increasing criminal penalties** for fraudsters and "CDL mills."
- **Closing loopholes** used by foreign scammers to divert American freight.

Our fleet works hard to keep Wisconsin moving safely. We need your help to ensure the federal systems we rely on are not being used as a playground for criminals. Please co-sponsor and support the SAFER Transport Act. Thank you for your time and attention to my request.

Sincerely,