

WMCA Issues Brief

S. 5653 - American Affordability and Jobs Act of 2026

What Wisconsin Motor Carriers Need to Know

Bottom Line

S. 5653 is a bi-partisan federal permitting reform proposal before the United States Congress to streamline approval processes for major infrastructure and energy projects. While it does not directly regulate trucking, the legislation could benefit Wisconsin motor carriers by accelerating transportation improvements, supporting energy reliability, reducing congestion, and promoting economic growth.

Why It Matters to Trucking

Faster Infrastructure Improvements

More predictable permitting could help highway, bridge, interchange, and freight corridor projects move from planning to construction more quickly, delivering needed capacity and safety improvements sooner.

Better Freight Mobility

Reducing delays in transportation projects can help address bottlenecks and congestion, improving productivity, fuel efficiency, and delivery reliability.

Stronger Energy Infrastructure

The trucking industry depends on reliable fuel and energy supplies. Streamlined permitting for pipelines, electric transmission, and related projects may enhance long-term energy reliability and affordability.

Economic Growth Creates Freight

Investments in infrastructure, manufacturing, and energy development support economic activity, generating additional freight demand and trucking opportunities.

What the Bill Does Not Do

S. 5653 does **not** directly affect:

- Truck size and weight limits
- Hours-of-service rules
- CDL requirements
- Driver qualification standards
- Motor carrier safety regulations
- Insurance requirements
- Fuel taxes

Its impact on trucking would be indirect through infrastructure development and economic growth.

WMCA Perspective

The Wisconsin Motor Carriers Association supports policies that:

- Improve freight mobility and transportation efficiency.
- Accelerate critical infrastructure projects.
- Maintain appropriate safety and environmental protections.
- Reduce unnecessary regulatory delays.
- Support reliable and affordable energy supplies.
- Strengthen America's freight transportation network.

Key Takeaway

Infrastructure policy is freight policy.

Although S. 5653 does not directly change trucking regulations, it could significantly influence the operating environment for Wisconsin motor carriers by helping advance transportation and energy projects that improve freight movement, strengthen supply chains, and support economic growth. WMCA will continue to monitor the legislation and advocate for policies that improve the efficiency, reliability, and competitiveness of the freight transportation industry.

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