

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Truck Safety Coalition Issues Joint Letter Demanding DOT Investigation

Washington, DC – Today, the Truck Safety Coalition (TSC), in collaboration with additional likeminded advocates and truck underride crash victims, issued a letter demanding the Department of Transportation (DOT) Office of Inspector General (OIG) investigate whether officials at the Department of Transportation engaged in misconduct and abuse, breached ethics rules and agency standards of conduct, and violated federal law when they coordinated with lobbyists from the trucking industry to suppress taxpayer-financed research on improving public safety in underride crashes with large commercial freight trucks. The letter was co-signed by organizations such as Public Citizen, Families for Safe Streets National, Government Accountability Project, and Whistleblowers of America among others.

[Investigative reporting](#) by PBS Frontline and ProPublica revealed that in 2019 and 2020, officials at the Department of Transportation (DOT), at the direction of lobbyists from the American Trucking Association, censored any mention of the word “regulation” and struck whole sections of a draft government report that assessed technology designed to protect pedestrians, bicyclists, and other vulnerable road users from death and horrific injuries in collisions with commercial motor vehicles.

[Underride crashes](#) are devastating and horrifically violent. They are also preventable. Requirements for side underride guards have been under consideration at DOT since 1969, yet marginal progress has occurred since that time. This has come at an incredible cost. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reports that in 2021 over 5,700 lost their lives in truck crashes and another 155,000 were injured. **These losses are unacceptable, and side underride guards can help prevent much of this needless loss of life.**

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The Truck Safety Coalition (TSC) is a partnership between Citizens for Reliable and Safe Highways (CRASH), also known as The CRASH Foundation, and Parents Against Tired Truckers (P.A.T.T.). The Truck Safety Coalition is dedicated to reducing the number of deaths and injuries caused by truck-related crashes, providing compassionate support to truck crash survivors and families of truck crash victims, and educating the public, policymakers, and the media about truck safety issues. Visit our website at <https://trucksafety.org>