

**SJR89 INTRODUCED**



1 49QYRR-1  
2 By Senators Allen, Smitherman  
3 RFD:  
4 First Read: 25-May-23  
5 2023 Regular Session



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SJR\_\_\_ EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF  
INFRASTRUCTURE FOR TRUCK PARKING.

WHEREAS, the purpose of this resolution is to strongly urge the Governor of the State of Alabama, the Alabama Department of Transportation, and the Alabama Legislature to consider the critical lack of adequate truck parking in the State of Alabama and support policies to invest in the long-term viability of truck parking; and

WHEREAS, trucking is critical to the overall economy of the State of Alabama; trucking employs more than 125,000 working Alabamians; 32,000 trucking companies call Alabama home; trucking moves 81 percent of all manufactured tonnage in Alabama; and 86 percent of Alabama communities are fully reliant on trucks to deliver their goods; and

WHEREAS, the scarcity of truck parking has dire safety implications for both truck drivers and the motoring public, resulting in far too many truck drivers parking in unsafe and unsanctioned places out of necessity; and

WHEREAS, the lack of safe parking areas makes it challenging for drivers to comply with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Hours of Service (HOS) rules, drivers are often faced with an untenable choice of either parking in undesignated and unsafe areas or violating their Hours of Service, which also creates a dilemma for law



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29 enforcement who can either force truck drivers to relocate,  
30 placing them in violation of HOS rules and taking a risk  
31 that the drivers may be too fatigued to drive safely, or  
32 they can allow the drivers to remain parked illegally; and

33 WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation has  
34 determined that every U.S. state currently has a truck  
35 parking shortage and 98 percent of truck drivers regularly  
36 experience difficulties finding safe parking; and

37 WHEREAS, according to the American Transportation  
38 Research Institute, drivers surveyed across the nation year  
39 after year have listed truck parking among their top  
40 challenges; and

41 WHEREAS, the lack of available safe parking for  
42 drivers has created a chilling effect on the recruitment and  
43 retention of drivers, especially female drivers, in the  
44 trucking industry, exacerbating the significant driver  
45 shortage; and

46 WHEREAS, with the passing of the Infrastructure  
47 Investment & Jobs Act resources have become available to  
48 state and local governments to expand truck parking  
49 capacity; and

50 WHEREAS, in its 2022 Alabama Freight Plan, the  
51 Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) identified  
52 several highway segments where truck parking capacity is  
53 inadequate; ALDOT projected that if no additional truck  
54 parking capacity is added by 2025, demand will increase by  
55 at least 55 percent, with some segments experiencing a  
56 doubling in demand; now therefore,



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57           BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
58   HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we, the members of the  
59   Alabama Legislature, acknowledge professional truck drivers  
60   are essential to the daily lives of Alabamians, delivering  
61   the goods that we often take for granted, from fresh water  
62   to fuel to the physical roofs over our heads, and we  
63   acknowledge the inadequate availability of truck parking in  
64   the State of Alabama has a detrimental impact on the  
65   trucking profession and overall supply chain efficiency; and  
66   we will support policies that will result in the betterment  
67   of the overall quality, quantity, and availability of truck  
68   parking in Alabama in order to support the main mode of  
69   freight transportation that is essential to the lives of all  
70   Alabamians; we urge ALDOT to invest available state and  
71   federal resources to expand truck parking capacity at the  
72   locations where the department has identified current and  
73   future shortages.

74           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State  
75   send duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the  
76   Governor of the State of Alabama, Director of the Alabama  
77   Department of Transportation, the United States Secretary of  
78   Transportation, and the Alabama Congressional Delegation.