

Hi Ben:

You may know this, but federal law prohibits businesses from locating in rest areas. The reason is that this would be unfair competition to the businesses that have invested in brick and mortar stores at exits. Retailers have long fought, and succeeded, in maintaining the prohibition. I have just learned that the Federal Highway Administration has announced it will not enforce the prohibition, allowing food trucks to park and sell goods at rest stops.

*Feds Allow Food Trucks in Rest Areas*

*On Saturday, the Federal Highway Administration announced that due to the COVID-19 virus, it would no longer enforce a 1964 statute that prevents commercial activities from occurring at interstate rest areas.*

Now, more than ever, convenience stores and truck stops at exits are investing in serving the public. They are investing in their employees, and supporting local emergency responders. Tennessee truck stops and convenience stores are “essential businesses” which are open and ready to serve the needs of truck drivers and the driving public in general. It is completely unfair to allow transient food and goods trucks to compete against the stores that are vested in the exits and vested in supporting communities. *Brick and mortar locations at interchanges through the state are struggling to survive, the very last thing they need is to compete against an entity that has not invested in local communities.*

As an official request, TFCA asks that the Tennessee continue to enforce the 1964 statute that prevents commercial activities from interstate rest areas. If you are not the correct person through which to process this official request, please advise me to whom the request should be directed.

Best regards,

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