

<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/california-706288-state-trucking.html>

Orange County Register March 1, 2016

[Opinion](#)

California the worst state to keep on truckin'

March 1, 2016 Updated 12:00 a.m.

By ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER EDITORIAL

As if we needed another example of how bad California's business climate is, a new survey concludes that the Golden State is the worst state in the nation for trucking.

The survey of "Best and Worst States for Trucking in 2016" was conducted by Merchant Cash USA, which offers cash advances to small businesses. Rounding out the bottom five were Virginia, Ohio, New Jersey and Massachusetts. Topping the list was Tennessee, followed by Washington, Oklahoma, Texas and Indiana.

Despite a booming trucking industry nationwide, California suffers due to environmental and labor regulations that drive up the costs of fuel and operations and make it difficult to hire drivers. This has caused an exodus of owner-operators with small carriers, who either "left the state or gave up their trucks," Scott Chatten of J.B. Hunt Transport told the Victorville Daily Press.

In particular, the California Air Resources Board's Statewide Truck and Bus Rule mandates that commercial trucks in the state have a diesel particulate filter, supposedly to improve air quality, though the regulation was based on discredited research. This has forced trucking businesses to either spend \$20,000 to \$50,000 to retrofit each truck or fork over even more to buy a new truck that meets the regulations. A new truck costs 60 percent more than it did in 2008, Merchant Cash USA noted.

To make matters worse, the filters are prone to clogging and have been blamed for at least 31 truck fires in the past two years, according to the Alliance for California Business.

A state law that requires workers to take a 30-minute meal break within the first five hours of a work day has also been a hindrance. "Can you imagine driving from the High Desert to Albuquerque and pulling off in the middle of nowhere to take your 30-minute break?" one owner-operator said to the Daily Press.

The destruction of the trucking industry in California will no doubt give some environmentalists reason to cheer, but it needlessly costs desperately needed jobs and inhibits economic growth – all to further an ideological agenda unsupported by evidence.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR Letters to the Editor: E-mail to letters@ocregister.com. Please provide your name, city and telephone number (telephone numbers will not be published). Letters of about 200 words or [videos of 30-seconds](#) each will be given preference. Letters will be edited for length, grammar and clarity.