

NEWS & INSIGHTS

Lawsuit Abuse is Driving Up the Cost of Everything You Buy

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While politicians debate tariffs and tax policy, a hidden “lawsuit tax” is quietly inflating prices on groceries, consumer goods, and everything that moves by truck – which is nearly everything.

America’s litigation system has turned commercial trucks into “18-wheel ATMs.” The “hit a truck, get a check” mentality isn’t just hurting trucking companies – it’s hitting your wallet every time you shop.

By the Numbers

- **47%** — Increase in trucking insurance rates from 2010-2020 (U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 2023)
- **\$529 billion** — Total U.S. lawsuit costs in 2022, representing 2.1% of GDP (U.S. Chamber, 2024)
- **7.1%** — Annual growth in lawsuit costs from 2016-2022, outpacing both inflation (3.4%) and GDP growth (5.4%) (U.S. Chamber 2024)
- **\$4,207** — Annual lawsuit burden per American household (U.S. Chamber 2024)
- **\$342.9 billion** — “Excessive” lawsuit costs above expected norms (Perryman Group, 2023)
- **\$3,965** — “Excessive” lawsuit costs per household (Perryman Group, 2023)

The Transportation Multiplier

Lawsuit abuse hits food prices hardest. The Federal Highway Administration estimates every \$1 of agricultural products requires 14.2 cents in transportation services, compared to 9.1 cents for manufactured goods and 8 cents for mining products.

Translation: When trucking costs spike, your grocery bill feels it first.

The Bottom Line

Affordability is the defining political issue of 2025. Any serious conversation about lowering costs must include lawsuit reform. You can't fix inflation while ignoring the litigation tax embedded in every product that travels by truck.

If you have any questions about how your trucking company or the entire industry can collectively reduce lawsuit abuse, [reach out to me](#) at any time.

Dive Deeper

Here are some links to studies that have been done proving the correlation between rising lawsuits and how reform can cause economic benefits:

[U.S. Chamber of Commerce-Roadblock: Trucking Litigation Problem and How to Fix It \(2023\)](#)

[U.S. Chamber of Commerce - Tort Costs in America \(2024\)](#)

[Perryman Group-Economic Benefits of Tort Reform \(2023\)](#)

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