

Bipartisan Resolution Directing FTC to Investigate Fire Truck Manufacturing Industry

Senators Elizabeth Warren & Jim Banks, Representatives Becca Balint & Ben Cline

Following two decades of [consolidation](#) by private equity firms and larger manufacturers, a vast majority of the fire truck manufacturing industry is now controlled by just three companies – and our fire fighters and communities are paying the price.

- **Prices have skyrocketed.** Fire truck prices have [doubled](#) over the last decade, far outpacing inflation for heavy-duty truck manufacturing over that time period. Manufacturers have also [exploited](#) their market power to implement “floating” prices, increasing the final price of a fire truck after it goes into production.
- **Manufacturing plants have shuttered.** Dominant fire truck manufacturers have restricted supply by [closing](#) their own manufacturing facilities, even though demand for fire trucks has increased in recent years.
- **Delivery backlogs are growing.** Since 2019, the lead times for fire truck delivery [have nearly tripled](#), and fire departments are now facing delivery delays of up to [five years](#).
- **Working conditions are unsafe.** Higher prices and longer delivery times for fire trucks have prevented fire departments from replacing aging trucks, depriving fire fighters of the essential equipment required to work [safely and effectively](#).

Rampant consolidation in the fire truck manufacturing industry is undermining public safety, squeezing fire departments’ budgets, and forcing taxpayers to [bear the consequences](#). Congress must use every tool to promote competition in the industry and protect fire fighter and public safety.

The [Federal Trade Commission Act](#) authorizes Congress, through a joint resolution passed by the Senate and House of Representatives, to direct the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to investigate and report the facts relating to any alleged violations of antitrust law. However, Congress has not used this authority to order an FTC investigation since the Great Depression era.

This bipartisan joint resolution would direct the FTC to report to Congress within one year on:

- The extent of anticompetitive practices and violations of antitrust law in the fire truck manufacturing industry, including price fixing, price gouging, serial acquisitions, and monopolization;
- The monetary and other harms of anticompetitive practices and violations of antitrust law in the fire truck manufacturing industry on fire fighters, fire departments, states, municipalities, and small businesses; and
- Recommendations for legislation or other remedial actions.