

Second Regular Session  
Sixty-ninth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R14-0250.01 Jennifer Berman x3286

HJR14-1002

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HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Coram, Mitsch Bush, Sonnenberg

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Schwartz, Brophy, Roberts

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House Committees

Senate Committees

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 14-1002

101 CONCERNING A SPECIAL EXEMPTION FROM INTERSTATE HIGHWAY  
102 WEIGHT LIMITS FOR DIVISIBLE TRUCK LOADS CARRYING FOREST  
103 PRODUCTS.

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1 WHEREAS, In Colorado, improving the health of our forests plays  
2 an important role in mitigating catastrophic wildfires, promoting healthy  
3 watersheds, and providing for our citizens biomass energy, a reliable,  
4 inexpensive renewable energy; and

5 WHEREAS, In the wake of devastating wildfires in the summers  
6 of 2012 and 2013, a catastrophic flood in September of 2013, and years  
7 of pine beetle infestations, Colorado's forests are filled with dead and  
8 dying wood that needs to be removed to restore the health of our forests;  
9 and

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

1           WHEREAS, Our forest products industries, including timber and  
2 biomass energy, provide market-driven economic solutions for improving  
3 Colorado's forest health by thinning the overcrowded forests and  
4 removing dead and dying wood; and

5           WHEREAS, Removing economic roadblocks for our forest  
6 products industries can thus help Colorado recover from the catastrophic  
7 wildfires, floods, and pine beetle infestations that have plagued our state  
8 in recent years; and

9           WHEREAS, One of the economic roadblocks faced by our forest  
10 products industries is the federal maximum weight limit imposed on  
11 interstate highways for divisible loads; and

12           WHEREAS, Under federal law, trucks hauling divisible loads may  
13 only haul up to 80,000 pounds on Colorado's interstate highways as a  
14 result of the freeze imposed by the federal "Intermodal Surface  
15 Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991", Pub.L. 102-240, as amended; and

16           WHEREAS, Because of the maximum weight limit imposed on  
17 interstate highways, companies hauling forest products are required to  
18 transport smaller loads than the maximum capacity of their trucks, thus  
19 requiring the companies to use more trucks and incur greater fuel costs;  
20 and

21           WHEREAS, A company providing biomass energy in Colorado,  
22 estimates that increasing the maximum weight limits on interstate  
23 highways would save the company between 20 and 30 percent of its  
24 current fuel costs; now, therefore,

25           *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-ninth*  
26 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:*

27           That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly, urge  
28 Congress to pass legislation creating a special exemption from the federal  
29 maximum weight limit on interstate highways for forest product  
30 industries.

31           *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent  
32 to members of Colorado's, Arizona's, New Mexico's, Oregon's, Utah's,  
33 and Wyoming's congressional delegations.