



HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 14-1002

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Coram, Mitsch Bush, Sonnenberg, Becker, Buck, Buckner, Conti, Court, Dore, Duran, Everett, Exum, Fields, Fischer, Foote, Garcia, Gerou, Ginal, Hamner, Holbert, Hullinghorst, Humphrey, Joshi, Kagan, Kraft-Tharp, Labuda, Landgraf, Lawrence, Lebsock, Lee, May, McCann, McLachlan, McNulty, Melton, Moreno, Murray, Navarro, Nordberg, Pabon, Peniston, Pettersen, Primavera, Priola, Rankin, Rosenthal, Ryden, Saine, Salazar, Schafer, Scott, Singer, Stephens, Swalm, Szabo, Tyler, Vigil, Williams, Wilson, Wright, Young, Ferrandino; also SENATOR(S) Schwartz, Brophy, Roberts, Guzman, Heath, Newell.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mark Ferrandino
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Morgan Carroll
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Marilyn Eddins
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Cindi Markwell
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE