

Second Regular Session
Sixty-ninth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

REVISED

LLS NO. R14-0250.01 Jennifer Berman x3286

HJR14-1002

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Coram, Mitsch Bush, Sonnenberg

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Schwartz, Brophy, Roberts

House Committees

Senate Committees

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 14-1002

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

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.

SENATE
Final Reading
February 18, 2014

HOUSE
Final Reading
January 13, 2014

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.