



A Division of the Wisconsin Motor Carriers Association
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November 5, 2021

Senator Jerry Petrowski, Chair
Senate Committee on Transportation
Room 123-South, State Capitol
PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

Representative Jon Plumer, Chair
Assembly Committee on Transportation
Room 317-North, State Capitol
PO Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Senator Petrowski and Representative Plumer,

As Chairmen of the transportation committees in the Senate and House, the members of the Wisconsin Milk Haulers Association would like to solicit your opinion on a recommendation for revisions to Wisconsin State Statute 348.27(9m)(a)4, which allows for special permits for the transportation of raw forest products.

Under that section in current law, commercial motor vehicles may be permitted by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to exceed the maximum gross weight limitations for the transport of raw forest products. The maximum gross weight allowed is 98,000 pounds on six axles or more. The members of the Wisconsin Milk Haulers Association are suggesting a similar permit be created in statute to allow commercial motor vehicles that transport liquid milk products to exceed the maximum gross weight limitations, but not greater than 98,000 pounds on six axles or more.

Milk haulers must ensure the transport of raw milk from farm to processor is performed in a safe, efficient and timely manner. Dairy farms are increasing in size but milk haulers who must move product from these farms are finding it more difficult to do so with no comparable increase in the allowable truck weight capacity. Adding to the problem is the growing trend of fewer drivers to transport milk products.

Wisconsin is 'America's Dairyland' and consumers have an expectation that dairy products are readily available in grocery store and restaurants. We have all witnessed significant supply chain issues over the last few months that are crippling the state and national economy. It would be extremely detrimental to Wisconsin's economy and image if milk and dairy products were added to the growing list of supplies less available to consumers. Those challenges are why the need to create this type of permit for milk haulers is very necessary at this critical juncture.

If you share this significant concern of the Wisconsin Milk Haulers Association, we would greatly appreciate your assistance in making the required changes to state law and allow these permits to be made available to the milk hauling industry.


Thank you for your time and attention to this request. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact either of us to discuss further.

Sincerely,



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