

**Second Regular Session  
Sixty-ninth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

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LLS NO. R14-0250.01 Jennifer Berman x3286

**INTERIM Committee Resolution**

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**Water Resources Review Committee**

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**House Committees**

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**INTERIM COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

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

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

14                    WHEREAS, Removing economic roadblocks for our forest  
15 products industries can thus help Colorado recover from the catastrophic  
16 wildfires, floods, and pine beetle infestations that have plagued our state  
17 in recent years; 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, One of the economic roadblocks faced by our forest  
2 products industries is the federal maximum weight limit imposed on  
3 interstate highways for divisible loads; and

4           WHEREAS, Under federal law, trucks hauling divisible loads may  
5 only haul up to 80,000 pounds on our interstate highways; and

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

11  
12           WHEREAS, The president of Evergreen Clean Energy  
13 Corporation, a company providing biomass energy in Colorado, estimates  
14 that increasing the maximum weight limits on interstate highways would  
15 save the company between 20 and 30 percent of its current fuel costs;  
16 now, therefore,

17           *Be It Resolved by the*    *of the Sixty-ninth General Assembly of the*  
18 *State of Colorado, the*    *concurring herein:*

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

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