



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER # 301**

**Relating to a Declaration of an Agricultural Emergency**

**WHEREAS**, the health welfare and economic well being of the citizens of Wisconsin depend on a sound agricultural economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the crop progress report issued on November 22, 2009, by the National Agricultural Statistical Service indicates that the percent of corn and soybean crops harvested is well below the five year average due to unseasonable weather; and

**WHEREAS**, unseasonably cool and damp weather has resulted in significantly above-average crop moisture in the state's soybean and corn crops; and

**WHEREAS**, the harvest of state crops is expected to continue through December; and

**WHEREAS**, due to excessive water content the weight of the crop to be transported has substantially increased; and

**WHEREAS**, farmers are currently operating under the seasonal weight exemption in Wis. Stat. § 348.17(5), which is effective from September 1 to November 30; and

**WHEREAS**, extending the seasonal weight exemption is necessary to avoid a disastrous loss of the 2009 harvest and to enable the harvest to be transported;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIM DOYLE**, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of this State, and specifically by Wis. Stat. § 323.10, do hereby determine that the imminent threat of a disaster exists due to the extreme wet conditions that endanger the 2009 harvest and declare the State of Wisconsin to be in a state of agricultural emergency;

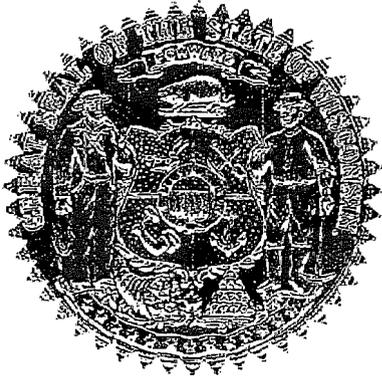
**PURSUANT TO** said state of emergency, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Laws of Wisconsin, and Wis. Stat. § 323.10, I HEREBY ORDER THAT:

(1) The seasonal weight exemption in Wis. Stat. § 348.17(5) is extended to December 30, 2009.

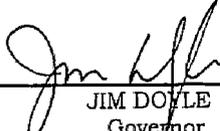
(2) Corn, soybeans, potatoes, vegetables, or cranberries may be transported from the field to storage on the grower's owned or leased land, from the field to initial storage at a location not owned or leased by the grower, or from the field to initial processing in a vehicle or combination of vehicles having a registered gross weight of 50,000 pounds or more or described in Wis. Stat. § 340.01 (24) (b) that exceeds the weight limitations under Wis. Stat. § 348.15 by not more than 15 percent without the requirement of obtaining a permit. This executive order is not valid and does not apply to the national system of interstate and defense highways, except for that portion of Interstate 39 between USH 51 and Interstate 90/94. Movement of overweight loads of corn, potatoes, cranberries and soybeans is prohibited from 12:01 a.m. on Thursday, December 24, 2009 until midnight on Sunday, December 27, 2009 (the Christmas holiday).

(3) This Executive Order does not suspend the operation of any state or federal law within the State of Wisconsin except as specifically described in the order. All other laws remain in full force and will be enforced. This order does not authorize the use of unregistered or improperly registered vehicles. Vehicles must satisfy all ordinary applicable federal and Wisconsin requirements concerning vehicle equipment, vehicle operations, and driver qualifications and conduct. The vehicle width limitations in Wis. Stat. § 348.05, the vehicle height limitations in Wis. Stat. § 348.06, and the vehicle length limitations in Wis. Stat. § 348.07, remain in effect and are not altered by this Executive Order.

(4) This Executive Order is not valid on particular highways, highway structures, or portions of highways, posted for special vehicle weight restrictions imposed by state or local authorities pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 348.17 and 349.16.



**IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this twenty-fifth day of November in the year two thousand nine.

  
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JIM DOYLE  
Governor

By the Governor:

  
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DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE  
Secretary of State