



JOHN SPIROS

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Assembly Bill 733

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Testimony from Rep. Spiros

Good afternoon and thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the Assembly Committee on Transportation for allowing me to have the opportunity to talk to you today regarding Assembly Bill 733, which deals with seasonal weight limitations for vehicles transporting agricultural crops.

Under current law, no person may operate on a highway any vehicle that exceeds certain statutory weight limits without a permit. Under one exception, certain vehicles transporting agricultural crops may, without a permit, exceed weight limits by up to 15 percent from September 1 to December 31 of each year. This is commonly referred to as the “fall harvest exemption”, and allows farmers to quickly transport harvested crops from the field to storage facilities. This is crucial during harvest times, when farmers need to be able to accommodate bigger loads.

The timeframe provided in the current law does not take into account the harvest time of some of Wisconsin’s most popular crops such as peas, potatoes and cranberries, which often begin harvesting much earlier.

This bill simply moves the start date for the fall harvest exemption from September 1 to August 1, allowing farmers to continue to harvest these crops earlier and get them to market earlier.

Thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to testify in support of this bill, and I would welcome any questions.