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(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

**WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ...
PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS**

2009-10

(session year)

Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

**Committee on ... Transportation, Tourism,
Forestry, and Natural Resources (SC-TTFNR)**

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
(**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**afr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
(**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sfr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

Senate

Record of Committee Proceedings

Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Forestry, and Natural Resources

Senate Bill 531

Relating to: annual or consecutive month permits for vehicles or combinations of vehicles transporting loads near the Wisconsin-Michigan border.

By Senator Jauch; cosponsored by Representative Sherman.

February 09, 2010 Referred to Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Forestry, and Natural Resources.

March 10, 2010 **PUBLIC HEARING HELD**

Present: (5) Senators Holperin, Sullivan, Leibham, Kedzie and Grothman.
Absent: (2) Senators Plale and Hansen.

Appearances For

- Sarah Barry — on behalf of Senator Jauch
- Gary Sherman — 74th Assembly District
- Eric Maki — Midwest Forest Products Co

Appearances Against

- None.

Appearances for Information Only

- Steve Krebs — WI DOT

Registrations For

- Henry Schienebeck — Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association
- Scott Henker — Plum Creek
- Rebecca Larson — Xcel Energy

Registrations Against

- None.

Registrations for Information Only

- None.

April 1, 2010 **EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD**

Present: (7) Senators Holperin, Sullivan, Plale, Hansen, Leibham, Kedzie and Grothman.

Absent: (0) None.

Moved by Senator Sullivan, seconded by Senator Hansen that **Senate Bill 531** be recommended for passage.

Ayes: (7) Senators Holperin, Sullivan, Plale, Hansen, Leibham, Kedzie and Grothman.

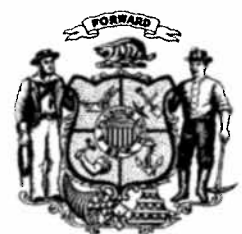
Noes: (0) None.

PASSAGE RECOMMENDED, Ayes 7, Noes 0

Elizabeth Novak
Committee Clerk



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





Contact: Sen. Bob Jauch
608-266-3510

Senator Jauch Testimony: Senate Bill 531

March 10, 2010

Senate Bill 531 makes a minor modification to an existing highway weight limit exemption that will save jobs and potentially create new ones. Four years ago the legislature adopted a very specific weight limit exemption to allow the hauling of wood on a stretch of Highway 2 between Wisconsin and Michigan. At that time we acted quickly to help a Wisconsin business save jobs; we have now discovered that the nature of that business has changed and we must act again.

The exemption was originally written so narrowly that it allowed for hauling between Michigan and Wisconsin, but not within Wisconsin alone. **This bill will allow the exemption for trucks hauling within Wisconsin on the same stretch of road.**

The Xcel biomass facility in Ashland is about to become the largest biomass utility in the Midwest. That plant will require wood products and that demand creates a perfect business opportunity for companies like Midwest Forest Products. This bill would not increase the number of trucks on the road, but it will allow necessary flexibility to help our timber industry in the north.

When the original provision was written Midwest Forest Products was hauling wood chips to Michigan and bringing biomass back to Wisconsin to Xcel energy. The pulp mill in Michigan is now closed and it is unlikely to reopen. **Xcel will draw wood products from about a one hundred mile radius. This bill will help Wisconsin businesses provide that wood.** In addition, this exemption will mean fewer trips on the highway hauling heavy loads.

I encourage you to join Representative Sherman and me in support of SB 531—a small, but important bill.