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WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

Senate Bill 246

August 22, 2013

Thank you, members of the committee, for the opportunity to speak today on Senate Bill 246.

Last session, we passed 2011 Act 243 as part of the Freight Friendly Wisconsin Initiative to bring Wisconsin law more in line with surrounding states and increase the efficiency of freight transport in the state. The bill generally increased the length of semi-tractor trailers and vehicle combinations, and did away with unnecessary and burdensome permitting requirements.

One section of that bill, however, had an unintended consequence. Under prior law, vehicles operating on short truck routes that were delivering to or based from a business 15 miles or less from a long truck route were exempt from some length limits. 2011 Act 243 inadvertently deleted this provision.

Without this exemption, businesses located along these routes would otherwise be forced to change locations or make huge investments in new equipment. This bill recreates the exemption and applies the change retroactively to the effective date of the original bill.

I would like to thank the committee members for the opportunity to speak on this topic, and would be happy to answer any questions at this time.

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