



MEMORANDUM

TO: Wisconsin Circuit Court Judges
Wisconsin District Attorneys

FROM: William Hennigan, Timber Producers Association of Wisconsin
Mark D. O'Connell, Wisconsin Counties Association
Daniel Fedderly, Wisconsin County Highway Association
Matt Jensen, Wisconsin Professional Loggers Association

DATE: June 13, 2006

SUBJECT: Log Truck Weight Violations

As you may be aware, 2005 Assembly Bill 678 (now 2005 Wisconsin Act 167) was recently signed into law by Governor Doyle. 2005 Wisconsin Act 167 increases the allowable weight for trucks that transport forestry products to 98,000 lbs, as long as the particular truck is fitted with an additional axle. The increase in allowable weight places the existing frozen road weight limit as the year round weight limit on state and local roads. In addition, 2005 Wisconsin Act 167 requires the recording of weight slips at mills and provides law enforcement entities with the ability to inspect the weight slips at their discretion.

The Wisconsin Counties Association and the Wisconsin County Highway Association advocated for more severe fines in 2005 Assembly Bill 678 during the legislative process. Both organizations felt strongly that severe fines would serve as a deterrent and disincentive to violate the conditions set forth by the bill. The fines created by Act 167 for over weight trucks are in some cases larger than the fines for violating previous statutory weight limits, however all groups feel they do not go far enough.

To that end, the Timber Producers Association of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Counties Association, the Wisconsin County Highway Association and the Wisconsin Professional Loggers Association are respectfully requesting that you impose strict enforcement of fines due to the violations of existing weight limits on state and local roads as well as fines due to the violations of the conditions of 2005 Wisconsin Act 167. Your assistance on this matter will serve as a disincentive for truckers to violate weight limits and will help provide a fair and consistent penalty enforcement structure for the forestry and trucking industries. Further, your assistance on this important matter will help preserve state and local transportation infrastructure, protect public safety, and save limited local government resources.

Thank you in advance for your support on this important matter.