



Loggers Helping Loggers!

MISSISSIPPI LOGGERS ASSOCIATION

P. O. Drawer 659
Quitman, MS 39355

Mississippi Loggers Association Gross Vehicle Weight

Fact Sheet

On behalf of the Mississippi Loggers Association, thank you for your time and the support you have expressed to our organization in an effort to seek a positive solution to our timber harvesting industry's interstate highway travel restrictions.

Position:

As an energy conservation measure, the forest products industry favors increasing the federal interstate national truck weight maximum from 80,000 lbs to 97,000 lbs with a sixth axle. In addition, we recommend adding options allowing units to run 88,000 lbs with 5 axles or 97,000 lbs with 5 axles with a harvest permit for agricultural and forest businesses. These options would be an important benefit to those states that have issues with county road systems and axle issues.

Benefits:

- Shifts substantial amount of existing log truck trip mileage from two-lane secondary roads and U.S. Highways to the safer, better engineered Interstate System.
- Enhances safety for motoring public and reduce traffic congestion.
- Reduction in number of loads to the mills.
- Energy savings from reduced diesel fuel consumption as a result of more direct routes, lower trip mileage and reduced starts and stops.
- Reduces CO2 emissions including carbon.

Request:

The Mississippi Loggers Association sincerely appreciates your interest in introducing legislation in Congress and working with other members of our delegation to remedy our industry's interstate travel restrictions. These restrictions result in needless safety risks to other drivers, significantly increased miles driven by log trucks on two-lane U.S. Highways through towns and cities, and a competitive disadvantage with neighboring states. We urge you to enact increased truck weights by promoting the introduction of a conservation provision in energy proposals to change the maximum Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW) on the Federal Interstate from 80,000 lbs to 97,000 lbs with sixth axle including the options for 88,000 lbs with fifth axle and 97,000 lbs with fifth axle which includes a harvest permit.