



**Wisconsin
Manufacturers
& Commerce**

Wisconsin Manufacturers'
Association • 1911
Wisconsin Council
of Safety • 1923
Wisconsin State Chamber
of Commerce • 1929

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To: WMC Transportation Committee
From: R.J. Pirlot, Director of Legislative Relations
Date: January 19, 2006

1. State Bill to Increase Truck Weight Limits: Assembly Committee Executive Action Tentatively Scheduled

As discussed, state representatives Donald Friske (R-Merrill), Gary Sherman (D-Port Wing) and state senator Dave Zien (R-Eau Claire) have introduced Assembly Bill (AB) 678, which would allow 98,000 pound trucks to transport raw forestry products over Wisconsin state, county and town roads, no matter what time of year. A hearing was held by the Assembly Committee on Transportation on Thursday, October 6. On behalf of WMC and the Wisconsin Paper Council, Bruce Ridley of Packaging Corporation of America appeared and testified in support of AB 678. The Assembly Committee on Transportation has tentatively scheduled to take executive action on AB 678 on Thursday, January 26.

2. Motor Fuel Tax Rate Indexing

Senate Bill (SB) 331, which repealed the annual motor fuel tax rate adjustment, was recently signed into law. WMC opposed SB 331, arguing:

- Indexing of the motor vehicle fuel tax rate preserves the buying power of the Transportation Fund.
- Repeal of indexing, absent a secure, alternative revenue stream, jeopardizes Wisconsin's ability to provide and maintain a robust transportation network.
- Projected transportation needs *already* surpass revenues. Without indexing, how will Wisconsin's future transportation needs be met?
- Manufacturing is heavily dependent on transportation. Access to a reliable, robust transportation network is an absolute necessity for our jobs, our economy and our families.

In order to adequately meet our transportation network needs, WMC supported indexing of the motor fuel tax and urged the Legislature not to repeal indexing.

3. "Transporting Wisconsin's Economy"

As discussed last fall, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation has put together a video to encourage economic development in Wisconsin. If you would like a copy of this video on a CD ROM, please contact R.J. Pirlot.

4. **2006 Keynote Topics:** please contact R.J. Pirlot if you have any suggestions.

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