



Dear Members of the Minnesota House and Senate:

We are writing today to express our support for passage of important legislation which deals with increasing truck weights to 90,000 pounds when the weight is distributed over six axels and 97,000 pounds when it is spread over seven axels. This proposed change is embodied in House File 620 and Senate File 309. We greatly appreciate Representative McNamara and Senator Jensen in their leadership to propose this change.

Minnesota Farm Bureau policy speaks in support of improving consistency with our neighboring states for truck regulations and a number of states across the country have adopted higher weight limits without problems. We believe that HF 620 and SF 309 are very reasonable proposals to bring Minnesota into better alignment with our upper Midwest neighboring states.

Although our farmer members can already carry a full load of their crops to market with these types of axel configurations, they are constrained in using the extra capacity to haul products like fertilizer or similar inputs on the way home. We understand that somewhere in the neighborhood of 1,600 farm trucks currently have permits for agricultural raw products, following the current law.

There hasn't been any evidence that this program has resulted in any problems. There is also the benefit of distributing weight across the added axels with increased efficiency and a reduction in road wear.

We look forward to your support for passage of HF 620 and SF 309.

Sincerely,

Kevin Paap, President
Minnesota Farm Bureau

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