

Good morning Senate Transportation Committee members,

I am here today as a board member of the Professional Logging Contractors of the Northeast. We are supportive of a 10,000 GVWR threshold to qualify for the tax exemption and appreciate your deliberations on that matter.

We are not supportive of a sunset on the exemption. Our competitors in the states around us have enjoyed this as a permanent exemption for a long time. There is no silver bullet to fix the issues we face but individual layers of policy change are cumulatively impactful. Not only will agencies need time to implement the policy, distribute materials, and train staff on these exemptions, but it will also take time for the affected logging and trucking community to understand the rules and a potential change in two years is not helpful to us.

When I was a member of the administration, we worked for years with the legislature and private sector to get the existing logging equipment exemption in place to bring regional parity and savings to Vermont's forest economy businesses. We oppose any removal of that exemption.

Thank you for your consideration,
Sam Lincoln

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