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The Voice of the Connecticut Forest Products Industry

March 12, 2013

Testimony in support of:

RB No. 1078 AN ACT INCREASING THE GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT OF VEHICLES HAULING AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES.

Submitted by: Joan Nichols – President CT Professional Timber Producers Association, Inc.

Senator LeBeau, Representative Perone and Members of the Commerce Committee:

The Connecticut Professional Timber Producers Association is in strong support of R.B.1078 An Act Increasing the Gross Vehicle Weight of Vehicles Hauling Agricultural Commodities. The Connecticut forest products industry is heavily reliant on the trucking industry to move raw material harvested from Connecticut forest lands to the sawmills and primary processors that turn this material into lumber, railroad ties, cut and split firewood, bark mulch and other added value products. Increasing the weight that our haulers can carry will help save millions of dollars in fuel costs, will expedite the movement of material and will put Connecticut sawmills at a level economic advantage with competitors in the region. Stumpage, which is the value paid to Connecticut landowners for standing timber, including timber owned by the state of Connecticut, is the residual value of the material after production costs are removed. Increasing truck weights will help reduce production costs thereby making more money available for stumpage. We understand that this initiative cannot be accomplished without support on the federal level, but this is an important first step in the legislative process.

According to a 2010 UCONN study, sales of Connecticut forest products contributed \$131.5 million dollars in 2007 to the states economy.