



HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 22-1002

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Pico and Rich, Boesenecker, Catlin, Exum, Froelich, Gray, Hooton, Sullivan, Valdez D., Van Winkle, Amabile, Bacon, Baisley, Benavidez, Bennett, Bird, Bockenfeld, Bradfield, Caraveo, Carver, Cutter, Daugherty, Duran, Esgar, Geitner, Gonzales-Gutierrez, Hanks, Herod, Jodeh, Kennedy, Kipp, Larson, Lindsay, Lontine, Luck, Lynch, McCluskie, McCormick, McKean, McLachlan, Mullica, Neville, Ortiz, Pelton, Ransom, Roberts, Sandridge, Sirota, Snyder, Soper, Tipper, Titone, Valdez A., Van Beber, Weissman, Will, Williams, Woodrow, Woog, Young, Garnett;
also SENATOR(S) Hisey and Zenzinger, Coram, Donovan, Scott, Cooke, Fields, Gardner, Holbert, Kirkmeyer, Liston, Lundeen, Pettersen, Priola, Rankin, Simpson, Smallwood, Sonnenberg, Winter, Woodward.

CONCERNING A REQUEST THAT CONGRESS ALLOW THE STATE OF COLORADO TO CONDUCT AN ANALYSIS OF AND POSSIBLY MOVE FORWARD ON HARMONIZING THE GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT FOR TRUCKS ON THE INTERSTATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM IN COLORADO WITH THAT OF OTHER STATE HIGHWAYS.

WHEREAS, Trucking and truck drivers have been essential during the COVID-19 pandemic in delivering critical goods, such as food, fuel, medical supplies, and much more; and

WHEREAS, Trucking is critical in the movement of goods and products for agriculture, ranchers, manufacturers, grocers, and fuel suppliers, with over 80% of the manufactured products in Colorado being moved by truck; and

WHEREAS, 79% of the communities in Colorado are served solely by truck for their freight needs; and

WHEREAS, The state's and nation's supply chains have been greatly stressed due to a range of issues that include a truck driver shortage, which is anticipated to continue into the future, along with increasing freight demands from our growing state that have led to shortages, delays, and higher prices for the movement of goods within the state; and

WHEREAS, For over 40 years, Colorado state law has authorized a maximum gross vehicle weight of 85,000 pounds for all state highways, with the only exception being the Interstate Highway System; and

WHEREAS, Federal law authorizes a maximum gross vehicle weight of 80,000 pounds for the Interstate Highway System; and

WHEREAS, The different gross vehicle weight standards between interstate and state highways causes routing issues for the state's transportation system; and

WHEREAS, The Interstate Highway System is constructed to a higher design specification than most state highways and should be more capable of handling higher weights than other state highways; and

WHEREAS, An interstate highway may be the most direct route for many trips, but transporters instead travel on other state highways to avoid the lower weight restriction; and

WHEREAS, During the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Polis, with the support of the United States Department of Transportation, approved an emergency waiver that temporarily raised the maximum weight of trucks allowed on Colorado interstate highways from 80,000 to 85,000 pounds in order to move essential goods and supplies, and there was no discernible increase in truck accidents on the Interstate Highway System in Colorado; and

WHEREAS, Increasing the gross vehicle weight for the Interstate Highway System to match that of other state highways may result in fewer trucks, less vehicle miles traveled, and lower emissions of greenhouse gases, and this helps the state to meet its greenhouse emission rules and comply with emission standards of the United States Environmental Protection Agency; and

WHEREAS, Governor Polis, the Colorado General Assembly, the Colorado Department of Transportation, and the Colorado State Patrol may be best positioned to determine if it is in the best interests of the state to harmonize the maximum gross vehicle weight for the state's Interstate Highway System with other state highways; and

WHEREAS, A study performed by the Colorado Department of Transportation considering safety, environmental, mobility, and economic factors is the best way to assess the benefits and costs of changing the maximum gross vehicle weight for trucks on Colorado interstate highways; and

WHEREAS, Such a study should engage a broad range of stakeholders both from the public and private sectors to ensure that all perspectives are considered; and

WHEREAS, If approved by the United States Congress and if the study finds that it is in the best interests of the state to raise the maximum gross vehicle weight on the Interstate Highway System to 85,000 pounds to harmonize it with other state highways, the state of Colorado, with the approval of the General Assembly and the Governor, would move forward with a change to state statute; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-third General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:

That the Colorado General Assembly requests:

(1) That Congress allow the Colorado Department of Transportation to conduct an analysis of increasing the gross vehicle weight limit for the Interstate Highway System in Colorado to harmonize it with other state highways where 85,000 pounds is the maximum weight; and

(2) That if the completed study determines that it is in the best interests of Colorado to harmonize the weights for the Interstate Highway System and other state highways, the Colorado General Assembly and the Governor be permitted by state statute to increase the gross vehicle weight limit to 85,000 pounds for vehicles traveling on the Interstate Highway System in Colorado.

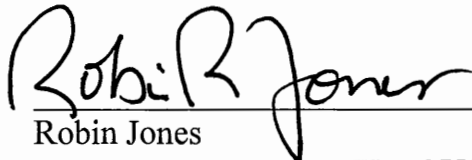
Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and each member of Colorado's congressional delegation.



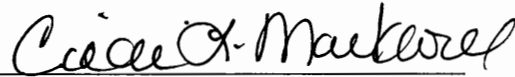
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