

STATE OF MONTANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 11-2014

EXECUTIVE ORDER ALLOWING AGRICULTURAL HARVESTERS IN MONTANA A 30 PERCENT WEIGHT TOLERANCE ON THEIR FARM VEHICLES DUE TO EXCESSIVE LATE SEASON RAINS EFFECTIVE UNTIL OCTOBER 17, 2014.

WHEREAS, the Montana agricultural industry has experienced late season rains directly affecting the current harvest operations; and

WHEREAS, since August 1, 2014, the agricultural areas have experienced an abundance of rain; and

WHEREAS, the agricultural industry in Montana is in the middle of harvest season; and

WHEREAS, there remains a vast amount of acres to be harvested in Montana; and

WHEREAS, Montana law sets gross weight limitations for farm vehicles and imposes penalties for violations of the statutory limits; and

WHEREAS, because of the weather conditions in Montana during the limited harvest season, Montana producers are concerned that their crops will remain un-harvested, a situation which can be alleviated through a temporary allowance of greater gross weight limitations for farm vehicles than those currently imposed under § 61-10-144, MCA; and

WHEREAS, under § 61-10-111, MCA, upon a request by the Director of the Department of Transportation, the Governor may through executive order, for a specific limited period of time, during emergency circumstances and to meet unusual conditions to ensure the welfare of the public, exempt vehicles from the statutory size and weight limits imposed under Title 61, chapter 10, part 1, MCA; and

WHEREAS, in order to respond to this emergency situation, the Director of the Department of Transportation has requested me to issue an Executive Order to expand the gross vehicle weight tolerance for sugar beet farm vehicles under § 61-10-144(3) from 20% for each axle to 30% during beet harvest season.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Steve Bullock, Governor of the State of Montana, by virtue of the authority vested in me under the laws and the Constitution of the State of Montana, do hereby exempt farm vehicles carrying agricultural products from harvested fields in Montana from the 20% limits of § 61-10-144, MCA, and authorize them to operate their vehicles without incurring excess weight penalties under § 61-10-145, MCA, if the total gross weight of the farm vehicle or combination of vehicles does not exceed allowable weight limitations by more than 30% for each axle. This exemption shall be in effect through (30 days). All other applicable laws and

regulations remain in effect. The Conditions of Exemption, submitted to me by Director Tooley of the Department of Transportation, are attached to this Executive Order and shall apply to this Order.

This Order is effective September 17, 2014.

GIVEN under my hand and the GREAT SEAL of the State of Montana, this 17th day of September, 2014.


STEVE BULLOCK, Governor



ATTEST:

Linda McCulloch, Secretary of State