



**American
Forest & Paper
Association**

Transportation Investment in the 115th Congress

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The forest products industry faces a nationwide shortage of transportation capacity and inefficiencies. Moving raw materials to mills and moving products to customers is increasingly difficult and costly.

As an important consumer of transportation services, the forest products industry accounted for 6.1 percent of total ton miles across all modes of commodity transportation (truck, rail, boat, air) in 2012, according to the 2012 Census of Transportation, which was released in February 2015. Specifically, forest products represented 9.4 percent of ton miles for commodities shipped by truck. Paper and wood products manufacturing combined ranked 5th among manufacturing industries in terms of 2012 truck tonnage (out of 20 industries).

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) estimates that by 2025, the amount of freight shipped throughout the U.S. will increase by 87 percent from what it was in 2000. The National Association of Manufacturer's (NAM) estimates that overall investment for repair and maintenance of our nation's highway system would be \$629 billion and an additional \$112 billion for bridges. Shippers like the forest products industry are crippled by additional costs and long lead times due to deteriorating conditions on the federal interstate. Congress should make the proper investments in our nation's roads and bridges so that businesses can compete in a cost effective, efficient and safe manner.

AF&PA advocates for investments and policies that will ease congestion on roads and create safer, stronger highways.

Fewer Trucks = Less Congestion = Less Wear/Tear = Fewer Accidents

Our national highway system cannot accommodate the coming surge in increased freight without also making changes to reduce the number of trucks hauling that freight. One way to reduce the number of trucks on the road is to safely increase the weight a truck is allowed to carry by adding an additional axle and brakes to the current truck configuration on the road.

Truck weight limits have been frozen at 80,000 pounds on the national highway system for over 30 years. But these trucks are already on the state and local roads. More than 90 percent of states allow heavier trucks to access some or all secondary roads, but federal regulations keep them off the interstates – the safest place for truck shipments. In addition, many of the heavier trucks that are already permitted on state roads operate on only five axles – instead of the safer six axles.

According to the National Economic Council 65 percent of U.S. major roads are rated in "less than good condition". The U.S. DOT estimates that allowing six-axle trucks to carry more weight on interstates will save \$2.4 billion in pavement restoration costs over the next 20 years.

AF&PA supports updating the antiquated weight limits on the interstate so that truck traffic can be reduced in a safe and efficient manner.

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The American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) serves to advance a sustainable U.S. pulp, paper, packaging, tissue and wood products manufacturing industry through fact-based public policy and marketplace advocacy. AF&PA member companies make products essential for everyday life from renewable and recyclable resources and are committed to continuous improvement through the industry's sustainability initiative - Better Practices, Better Planet 2020. The forest products industry accounts for approximately 4 percent of the total U.S. manufacturing GDP, manufactures over \$200 billion in products annually, and employs approximately 900,000 men and women. The industry meets a payroll of approximately \$50 billion annually and is among the top 10 manufacturing sector employers in 45 states.

