

From: Windy Johnson

Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:52 PM

To: Windy Johnson

Subject: Urban County News, April 11, 2017: Senate Approves Overweight Milk Trucks on County Roads



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Senate Approves Overweight Milk Trucks on County Roads

To All Urban Counties:

Today the Senate passed Senate Bill 1383 by Perry by a vote of 30-1. SB 1383 would authorize milk trucks with a weight up to 90,000-pounds to transport over a load zoned county road or bridge to obtain access to any dairy or milk facility. Senator Perry amended the bill to restrict operations on a weight restricted county road or bridge unless the road/bridge is the only access to the milk facility.

SB 1383 continues the trend of the Legislature carving out new exceptions to weight restrictions and increasing the amount of weight that vehicles may transport on county roads that are not designed to accommodate such extreme weight. The exemptions often do not cover interstate highways, which are federally regulated, steering heavier trucks onto state highways and county roads. SB 1383 will encourage other bulk haulers to request legislative exemptions to operate overweight trucks on our county road system.

When weight limits are raised, counties are forced to address impacts to infrastructure, traffic, and safety. Heavier trucks are harder to maneuver, need more room to brake and cause greater damage to roadways at taxpayer expense.

SB 1383 will now go to the House. The House sponsor is Ken King (R-Panhandle). Please contact your House delegation to voice your concerns with expanding overweight trucks operating on county roads.

Please contact me if I may be of additional assistance on this or any other matter.

Windy Johnson | Program Manager

Texas Conference of Urban Counties