BRUCE WESTERMAN
4TH DISTRICT, ARKANSAS

CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–0404

202 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225–3772

101 RESERVE STREET, SUITE 200
HOT SPRINGS, AR 71901
(501) 609–9796

http://westerman.house.gov

September 26th, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee Republicans
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee Democrats
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

As you craft the Fiscal Year 2026 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, I respectfully request that you include a safety provision to allow logging trucks onto federal highways for stretches of up to 20 miles in the state of Arkansas.

Specifically, I believe that a provision allowing logging vehicles with a gross weight of no more than 85,000 pounds, with no less than 5 axles, and which have received a permit to operate on the Interstate Highway System in the State of Arkansas from the Arkansas Highway Police Division of the Arkansas Department of Transportation, should be allowed to operate on segments of the Interstate Highway System in Arkansas for stretches of up to 20 miles.

This issue is about highway safety. Unfortunately, Arkansas ranks third for the deadliest roads in the nation according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Many of Arkansas's roadways are rural and difficult for log trucks to navigate. Allowing these trucks on federal highways for brief, 20 miles or less, stretches would lessen the time that these trucks spend on state highways and city roads, leading to quieter, safer communities and preserving our rural infrastructure.

I am not seeking nationwide changes to the federal laws and regulations governing truck weights. I am simply seeking a statewide solution that provides log trucks with more direct routes to their destinations that lowers the amount of time these trucks spend near our churches, schools, and neighborhoods.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests. If you have any questions, please contact my Legislative Director, Isabel David at isabel.david@mail.house.gov

Sincerely,

Bruce Westerman

Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress