



ALABAMA Loggers Council

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LOGGERS COUNCIL

Exhibit G
UCR Plan Board Meeting Minutes
December 6, 2007

November 20, 2007

Mr. Walter L. Thomas, Secretary
Alabama Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 304260
Montgomery, AL 36130-4260

Dear Mr. Thomas,

The Alabama Loggers Council supports the restoration of the agriculture exemptions that were lost with the transfer of the Unified Carrier registration program from SAFETEA-LU 109-59 Public law. Many of our members were caught by surprise of this new registration program. Most forest products are hauled within 100 air mile of their base and frequently haul pulpwood or logs to mills just over state lines. Yet under the Unified Carrier Registration loggers are subject to the same registration fees as daily carriers of motor freight that transport products in multiple states.

During the comment period that is now open the Alabama Loggers Council would like to recommend the exemptions restored that were deleted from the Same State registration program. We believe that the UCR Board has that authority. Most all of the pulpwood and logs that are transported to mills across state lines are still relatively short hauls and are not being transported in multiple states. Many of our members do not transport products out of state but registered with USDOT to comply with Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations; however they are now required to register with the Public Service Commission also.

There are loggers that do haul to mills into neighboring states but also pay for apportioned tags and fuel stickers. Many of those operate within a 100 mile radius of their base and certainly, I believe, a single registration rate should apply to them only rather meeting the fee schedule for multiple vehicles. Alabama loggers generally haul short distances yet under UCR they are being charged the same registration as for hire or commercial carriers that are multi state operators. Simply we see the need to restore the agricultural exemptions for forest products to first point of processing. We believe the UCR Board has that authority. Should restoration of Ag exemptions not be an option,

A single registration fee for those operators that haul Ag and forest products within the 100 air from their base of operation should replace the fee schedule. Already under the Federal Motor Carrier Guidelines there is recognition of carriers that haul only short distances and are exempt from keeping a log book but are subject to keeping a daily time sheet.

We know that much effort has been put into the UCR program to insure the success, but also are concerned that many affected by the new registration were unaware that new registration fees would be assessed on their business. Our association has already put into our news letter and our quarterly bulletin information on how to comply with new UCR program also with proper contact information. I am still getting calls from our members that are still unaware of their need to register, specifically those that have USDOT numbers that operate intrastate. The Alabama Loggers Council request that the UCR board consider amending the UCR agreement and extend the exemptions offered under Same State or at least considers modifying the registration to only require a single registration for haulers of Ag and forestry haulers within a 100 air mile radius of their base of operation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment specific to docket #17238 appendix A requirements. Certainly it is our goal to make our membership aware of changes in transportation rules and regulations but we also appreciate the opportunity to participate in the changes being made to these programs as well.

Sincerely



Bill Jones, Director
Alabama Loggers Council

CC: Avelino Gutierrez
UCRA Board of Directors.