



Maryland Grain Producers Association
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Senate Bill 203 - Vehicle Laws - Exceptional Hauling Permits for Farm Products

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

MGPA Position: SUPPORT

The Maryland Grain Producers Association (MGPA) serves as the voice of grain farmers growing corn, wheat, barley and sorghum across the state. MGPA supports Senate Bill 203 which harmonizes exceptional hauling permits for field loaded agricultural products, milk and live haul poultry.

Senate Bill 203 increases the gross vehicle weight tolerance for trucks with five axles to 88,000 pounds and 95,000 pounds for trucks with six axles. This is for farm products as defined in § 10-601(c) which includes unprocessed grain. The bill also specifies that the farm products must be "field loaded" except for milk and live poultry.

Increasing the exceptional hauling permit gross vehicle weight tolerance provides flexibility and certainty to farmers who are harvesting and hauling grain directly out of the field without a mechanism to verify the weight before entering the roadways. Allowing for this increased tolerance will also take trucks off the road by allowing the same amount of grain to be hauled in less trips.

MGPA appreciates State Highway Administration's willingness to listen to and address farmers' concerns.

Thank you,

Lindsay Thompson

Executive Director