VT/MAINE INTERSTATE OVERWEIGHT TRUCK PILOT PROGRAM

- Dave Potter, VT State Representative
  Vice-Chair, VT House Transportation Committee
Describe Progress on the Federal FY 2012 Appropriations Bill (H.R.2112) “making permanent” the Pilot Program

VT/Maine Lessons Learned from Interstate Overweight Truck Pilot Program
Examples of Overweight Trucks
4 Axle – 69,000 lbs.
5 Axle - 90,000 lbs.
6 Axle - 99,000 lbs.
Federal Law Background

- States may legally exceed the federal overweight truck limits of 80,000 lbs. in two ways:
  - If state law allowed over-weight trucks prior to July 1, 1956 (grandfathering)
  - Congress grants a special exemption

- Maine/VT not “grandfathered”

- Maine portion of I-95 exempted (NH to Augusta)

- NH, MA, and NY currently benefit from “grandfathering” or special exemption
Maine and Vermont’s Problem

How Do Overweight Trucks Move Across the Region and Everywhere In the State?
Maine/Vermont Pilot Program

- Federal legislation passed Dec. 16, 2009 establishing a one year pilot
- Maine/Vermont interstate weight limits raised to 100,000/99,000 respectively
- Maine and Vermont pass enabling legislation early 2010
- Feds allow pilot program to expire Dec. 17, 2010
- Previous 80,000 lb. restrictions again apply
Recent Federal Legislative History

- H.R. 2112 passes House June 16, 2011 as Ag Bill
- H.R. 2112 passes Senate Nov 1, 2011 with amended section 125 granting ME/VT federal exemptions
- House/Senate conference committee (CC) formed Nov 3, 2011
- House passes (CC version/sec. 125) H.R. 2112 Nov 17 298-121
- Senate passes (CC version/sec.125) H.R. 2112 Nov 17 70-30
- President Signs H.R. 2112 into law Nov 18
Maine and Vermont may now move heavy trucks off secondary roads and onto the interstate system connecting with NY, NH & MA for the next 20 years
16 States that presently allow overweight interstate limits exceeding 80,000 lbs.

- Alaska
- Idaho
- Louisiana
- Maine
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Montana
- Nevada
- New Hampshire
- New York
- North Dakota
- Oregon
- Utah
- Vermont
- Washington
- Wyoming
Lessons Learned & Testimonials
Mounting Pressures on US Trucking Industry

- Congestion has tripled since 1982.
- Truck emissions standards and other rules continue to tighten.
- Diesel fuel price spikes will return with growing economy.
- International competition is more intense than ever.
Cushing and Sons Water Wells
Cushing and Sons Water Wells

- Own 3 well drilling rigs not previously allowed on the VT Interstate
- Now can avoid stop and go traffic in Brattleboro, Bellows Falls, & White River Junction
- Lessen impact on VT State Secondary Roads
- Improved safety and travel time efficiencies
4 axle trucks previously limited to 14 tons on the Interstate, can now handle 22 ton payloads
6 axle rigs can now carry an additional 9.5 tons
Less wear on roads and trucks, less emissions
Increased safety, decreased congestion, avoiding cities
Lower haul costs, especially on Interstate jobs
Taxpayers will benefit most by lower project bids
Barrett Trucking Co., Inc.
Barrett Trucking Co., Inc.

- Using the Interstate, eliminated 63 truck trips a day through the urban center of Winooski, VT
- Reduced noise and stop and go traffic in urban settings
- Financial & Safety Impacts:
  - Lower costs to customers
  - 2% increase in fuel efficiency
  - Less fatigued drivers
  - Increased pedestrian safety
  - Better able to reach and attract new customers
Casella Waste Systems

- Less miles traveled per year, with less road wear
- Fewer trips per year, with enhanced public safety
- Fewer gallons of diesel fuel used per year
- No increase in collisions despite increase to 99,000 lbs.
- Reduction in carbon footprint
- VT Interstate now compatible with neighboring states
ME/VT State Lessons Learned

- ME/DOT and VT/DMV found no significant adverse bridge or safety impacts respectively
- The trucking industry in ME/VT were positive about time and cost savings
- Cities and villages were enthused over large trucks no longer being forced through their town centers
- VT Legislature initiated multiple strong resolutions to Congress and its federal delegation
- When it comes to federal politics, patience is a virtue!
Questions?

Please hold until after all have had a chance to speak