



NANCY VANDERMEER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 70TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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VanderMeer's Milk Hauler Proposal Receives Public Hearing

Madison – Yesterday, during a public hearing before the Assembly Committee on Transportation, Representative Nancy VanderMeer (R-Tomah) appeared to testify on a bill she's authored, [Assembly Bill 743](#). The bill, co-authored by State Senator Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green), opens up the "agricultural commodity" exception to federal hours-of-service and electronic logging device (ELD) parameters for milk and commodity haulers in the state.

Representative VanderMeer released the following statement:

"I'm grateful that Representative Kulp (R-Stratford) agreed to hold a hearing on this legislation. I want to first note that this legislation was a proposal brought forward by the [Dairy Task Force 2.0](#). Processors and transporters are an integral part of our agricultural economy. Producers rely on processors and transporters every day, and milk and commodity haulers are no exception. The need to pick up and transport milk, for example, is a 365 day a year effort.

"We need to do what we can to remove burdensome regulations that put producers at a disadvantage and that create more strain on an already delicately balanced transportation network. It's hard to find reliable drivers as it is, and the restrictions as they exist now only make it harder on both the drivers that want to work and their employers searching for qualified employees. I think this proposal is a step in the right direction in helping to alleviate some of the strain currently being experienced in the industry. At least 20 other states have done the same, including other agriculture intensive ones such as Minnesota, Iowa, Indiana, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

"This is an example of a very real, tangible issue for farmers and agricultural economy stakeholders, and an example of the kind of thing I do my very best to bring to light before the legislature as a whole whenever I can. We've received some great support so far and I plan to hopefully get this to the governor's desk this session."

The Senate companion bill to Assembly Bill 743 is scheduled for a public hearing before the Senate Committee on Transportation, Veterans and Military Affairs this coming Tuesday.

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The 70th Assembly District includes portions of Monroe, Jackson, Portage and Wood counties.