



Louisiana Logging Council

www.laforestry.com

October 14, 2026

The Honorable Mike Johnson

Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives

Office of the Speaker

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

Re: Request for a Temporary Suspension of the Federal Excise Tax on Heavy Trucks, Trailers, and Tires Used in Farming and Logging

Dear Mr. Speaker:

My name is John Keith. I am one of your constituents, and I am writing to you as president of the Louisiana Loggers Council and owner of Allstate Land and Timber. I'm asking for your help with something that would make a real difference for loggers and farmers — not just in Louisiana, but across this country.

Right now, anybody who buys a heavy truck or trailer pays a 12 percent federal excise tax on the first retail sale, under 26 U.S.C. § 4051. On a \$180,000 log truck, that's over \$21,000 in tax before the truck ever hauls its first load. Tires carry their own federal excise tax on top of that. For an industry running on thin margins, that tax is often the difference between upgrading an aging truck and running an old one another year.

Mr. Speaker, the timber industry is hurting. Diesel prices have been crushing, equipment costs keep climbing, and a lot of loggers and farmers are running trucks and trailers that should have been replaced years ago. I'm asking you to consider legislation — even a temporary measure, six to twelve months — suspending the federal excise tax on heavy trucks, trailers, and tires when they're purchased for use in farming or logging. Give us a window to upgrade our equipment without that 12 percent penalty hanging over the purchase. It would put safer, more efficient trucks on the road and keep small logging and farm operations in business.

I also want to thank you, and thank President Trump and his administration, for the executive order earlier this month deferring the federal excise tax on diesel through the end of the year. That relief is real — at 24.4 cents a gallon, it adds up fast for those of us burning hundreds of gallons a day. It tells me this administration understands what fuel costs are doing to working people, and I'm grateful for it.

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A temporary suspension of the Federal excise tax on new truck and trailer purchases would build on that relief in exactly the right way: help with the fuel got us through this season and help with the Federal excise tax would let us invest in the next one. I believe this is something both sides of the aisle could get behind — it helps farmers, it helps loggers, and it doesn't cost the Treasury a dime it wasn't already planning to forgo on the fuel side.

I would welcome the chance to talk with you or your staff about this in more detail or ask loggers and farmers across Louisiana who would tell you the same thing. Thank you for your service to our district and to this country and thank you for considering this request.

Respectfully,

John Keith

President, Louisiana Loggers Council

Owner, Allstate Land and Timber