IOWA DOT
GETTING YOU THERE

PROPOSAL

ALLOW MOTOR CARRIER FLEET PERMIT ISSUANCE DURING A PRESIDENTIAL DISASTER DECLARATION

PROPOSED SOLUTION: Establish new section 321E.29B of the Iowa Code to allow issuance of motor carrier fleet permits in conjunction with a Presidential Disaster Declaration. This will allow a carrier to request a permit for a fleet of vehicles for travel on the interstate system and not have to request permits for each individual vehicle.



BACKGROUND

Current federal law 23 U.S.C. §127(i) authorizes states to issue special permits for overweight vehicles carrying divisible loads of disaster relief supplies on the interstate system during a presidentially declared national emergency that has been declared a major disaster.

The Iowa Code does not currently authorize the DOT to issue one special permit to apply to multiple vehicles with overweight divisible loads on the interstate when those vehicles are all operating under the same motor carrier's U.S. DOT number.

Rather, the Iowa DOT is currently limited by Iowa Code to only issuing vehicle-specific permits. This process can be onerous when the permittee has a large number of vehicles in its fleet and needs to react quickly to a disaster.

POSITIVE IMPACT

FURTHERS COVID-19 RELIEF

by expediting the transport of disaster relief supplies during a declared national emergency.

IMPROVES THE RESPONSE TO ANY FUTURE PRESIDENTIALLY DECLARED MAJOR DISASTER

by ensuring the issuance of special permits is not unnecessarily hindered or delayed.

STREAMLINES THE PERMITTING PROCESS FOR CUSTOMERS

by allowing the applicant to apply for a permit for their fleet instead of applying for a permit for each vehicle. Motor carrier fleets can vary in size from a few vehicles to hundreds of vehicles.

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