DATE: 28 November 2022

TO: Iowa General Assembly

FROM: Susan Fenton, Legislative Liaison, Iowa Department of Transportation

RE: Department Proposal on Permits for Overweight Loads

This change would give Iowa DOT and local agencies flexibility to issue permits to overweight loads at higher weights than typically allowed by statute. This change is needed to allow the timely and efficient movement of certain overweight loads during emergencies or special situations such as natural disasters or construction of large industrial facilities that are essential to Iowa’s economic development.

Expanding existing authority in 321E.9 for the DOT to declare a special or emergency and exempt certain requirements for overweight permits. This bill would add gross weight, axle weight, and dolly axle distance to the items that the department or permit-issuing authority can exempt when issuing overweight permits for special or emergency situations as defined in IAC 761-511.1

We appreciate your willingness to look at the is proposal. If you have any questions, I can be reached at 515-509-8841 or susan.fenton@iowadot.us.