

**STATE OF MONTANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 11-2020**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER ALLOWING AGRICULTURAL HARVESTERS IN MONTANA
A TEMPORARY 30 PERCENT WEIGHT TOLERANCE ON THEIR FARM VEHICLES
FOR SUGAR BEET HARVEST**

WHEREAS, Montana's agricultural industry has experienced early winter storm conditions including extensive precipitation directly affecting the current harvest operations;

WHEREAS, the agricultural industry in Montana is in the middle of sugar beet harvest season and there remains a vast number of acres to be harvested;

WHEREAS, Montana law sets gross weight limitations for farm vehicles and imposes penalties for violations of the statutory limits, § 61-10-144, MCA;

WHEREAS, Montana producers face considerable potential losses if their crops remain unharvested due to unfavorable weather conditions during the limited harvest season;

WHEREAS, under § 61-10-111, MCA, upon a request by the directors of the Departments of Transportation and Agriculture, the Governor may exempt vehicles from statutory size and weight limits for a specific, limited period of time during emergency circumstances and to meet unusual conditions to ensure the welfare of the public; and

WHEREAS, in order to respond to these conditions, the directors of the Departments of Transportation and Agriculture have requested a temporary increase in the gross vehicle weight tolerance for sugar beet farm vehicles under § 61-10-144(3), MCA, from 20 percent for each axle to 30 percent during beet harvest season.

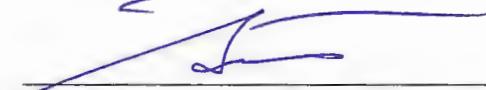
NOW, THEREFORE, I, STEVE BULLOCK, Governor of the State of Montana, by virtue of the authority vested in me under the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, § 61-10-111, MCA, and other applicable statutes do hereby exempt farm vehicles carrying sugar beets from harvested fields in Montana from the 20 percent limits of § 61-10-144, MCA, and authorize them to operate their vehicles without incurring excess weight penalties under § 61-10-145, MCA, if the total gross weight of the farm vehicle or combination of vehicles does not exceed allowable weight limitations by more than 30 percent for each axle.

This exemption shall be in effect through November 30, 2020. All other applicable laws and regulations remain in effect.

This Order is effective immediately.

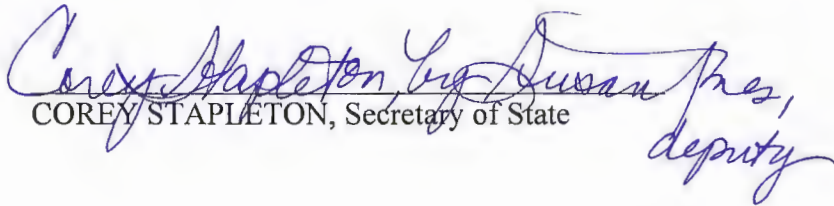


GIVEN under my hand and the GREAT SEAL of
the State of Montana this 26 day of
October, 2020.



STEVE BULLOCK, Governor

ATTEST:



COREY STAPLETON, Secretary of State
deputy