

RE: H 7381 – MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES – SIZE, WEIGHT, AND LOAD LIMITS

Committee: House State Government Elections Committee

Date of Hearing: 2/5/26

To the Members of the Committee:

My name is Steven Field, and I represent Imperatore Steel Erectors Inc., a Rhode Island crane service provider supporting public and private infrastructure projects essential to our state's safety and economic growth.

I urge you to support the expansion of annual blanket permits for self-propelled cranes.

Our company regularly provides emergency lifting services for state colleges, healthcare facilities, municipal infrastructure, bridges, and ports. Under the current single-trip permit structure, response times are significantly delayed by the administrative burden of obtaining individual permits for each move. During storm response, equipment failures, or power outages, these delays jeopardize safety and operational stability.

Annual blanket permits would enable immediate response—the same capability Massachusetts already provides. The Rhode Island Department of Transportation's oversize/overweight permit system already accommodates annual blanket permits for non-divisible construction equipment; cranes should be included under this same structure.

Rhode Island's proximity to Massachusetts means our businesses routinely operate across state lines. Without comparable permitting, Rhode Island firms face a competitive disadvantage, and emergency mobilization remains less efficient within our own borders than across them.

We respectfully urge the State to adopt annual blanket permits for self-propelled cranes, mirroring the successful Massachusetts model. This measure enhances emergency response, supports infrastructure maintenance, and improves overall public safety.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Steven Field

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