



# **PRESS RELEASE**

## **State Senator Wes Shoemyer – 18<sup>th</sup> District**

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### **EMERGENCY DECLARATION EXTENDED TO HELP FARMERS WITH FALL HARVEST**

JEFFERSON CITY – The Missouri Department of Transportation has extended its emergency declaration waiving some regulations to help farmers harvest their crops and haul them to grain elevators and processors. The emergency declaration allows farmers to run their loaded trucks at 10% above the required weight limit and to ignore the hours-of-service requirements. The emergency declaration has been renewed until December 22.

“The wet spring caused a lot of farmers to get a late start planting their crops, and the heavy rains we received this fall made it tough to get those crops out of the fields,” Sen. Wes Shoemyer said. “Farmers are making good progress and this extension will help us finish the job.”

Under MODOT’s emergency declaration, Missouri farmers are required to follow these guidelines:

- Loaded, gross weight cannot be greater than 10% above the gross vehicle weight rating of the vehicle licensed weight;
- Limit the transport of row crops from the farm to a local storage facility and empty return trips to the farm;
- When crossing a bridge, the driver must not exceed 45 mph and must center the truck between the two lanes of the bridge;
- No interstate travel is permitted
- While transporting crops from farm to storage, farmers are not required to follow hours-of-service laws, and;
- Farmers must carry a copy of the emergency declaration in each vehicle that operates in response to these relief efforts.

With the extension, Sen. Shoemyer again reminds everyone to be aware of the increased agricultural traffic in the next couple of weeks as farmers rush to complete the fall harvest.

“Please be alert for slow-moving trucks and combines on our rural roads,” Sen. Shoemyer said, “and make it a safe and successful harvest.”

Farmers can download and print an emergency declaration by visiting the following website: [www.modot.org/mcs](http://www.modot.org/mcs). Information is also available at the Department of Agriculture website at [www.mda.mo.gov](http://www.mda.mo.gov).