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Letter to the Editor

By Chip Penny, President, New York and Long Island Lumber Association

To the Editor,

As President of the New York and Long Island Lumber Association, I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding the Advanced Clean Truck (ACT) rule set to take effect in January. While the transition to cleaner technologies is a goal we all support, the practical implications of this regulation for the building materials industry are significant and troubling.

The ACT mandates that manufacturers increase the percentage of medium- and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) sold starting January 1, 2025. However, for businesses like ours, navigating the congested roads of downstate New York poses unique challenges. The heavy traffic conditions often lead to delays, and the requirement to accommodate charging times for electric trucks will necessitate a dramatic increase in fleet size to ensure timely deliveries of essential building materials.

Currently, there are no publicly available heavy-duty charging stations in New York, which adds another layer of difficulty to complying with the new regulations. The lack of infrastructure means that our trucks would face prolonged downtime as they seek out charging options, further exacerbating delays in getting materials to job sites. This not only impacts our operations but also has a ripple effect on construction schedules and the overall economy.

Moreover, the financial implications of expanding our fleet to account for these additional charging needs are daunting. Many of our members are small, family-owned businesses that already operate on tight margins. The costs associated with purchasing electric trucks, which can reach nearly \$500,000 each, are prohibitively high compared to traditional diesel trucks, which range from \$180,000 to \$200,000.

If the state is serious about moving towards a more sustainable future, it is imperative that we do so in a way that does not jeopardize the viability of the building materials industry. I urge our state leaders to reconsider the timeline for the ACT rule and collaborate with us to develop a realistic approach that allows for the necessary infrastructure and support to facilitate this transition without overwhelming our industry.

Together, we can work towards cleaner technologies while ensuring that the building materials sector continues to thrive and support the communities we serve.

Sincerely,

Chip Penny

President

New York and Long Island Lumber Association