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## **Letter to the Editor**

*by Doug Ford, Chair of the Northeastern Retail Lumber Association*

### **To the Editor,**

As Chair of the Northeastern Retail Lumber Association (NRLA), I've seen firsthand how important a strong, reliable supply chain is to the building materials industry. However, the Advanced Clean Truck (ACT) rule, set to take effect in January, presents major challenges for our industry that we cannot ignore.

There is simply no charging infrastructure for commercial trucks in New York State. While cleaner technologies are a goal we can all support, without the infrastructure in place to support these vehicles, it's impossible for us to move forward. New York hasn't installed a single publicly available charger for heavy-duty trucks. If our trucks can't charge, they can't run—it's that simple. This will create significant delays in deliveries and disrupt construction projects across the state.

The reduced load capacity of electric trucks compounds the problem. With electric trucks unable to carry as much as their diesel counterparts, we'll need more trucks on the road to keep up with current demand. This doesn't just mean more traffic; it means higher costs for businesses that will need to purchase additional vehicles to handle the same amount of work. And the trucks themselves are far more expensive, with electric models costing nearly three times as much as diesel ones.

The financial burden on building materials dealers is staggering. We're being forced to invest in technology that is not only more expensive but also less efficient. We need a reasonable timeline that allows for the development of the necessary charging infrastructure and technological advancements.

Sincerely,

**Doug Ford**

Chair

Northeastern Retail Lumber Association (NRLA)