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## **Letter to the Editor**

*By Michele Wild President of the Western New York Lumber Dealers Association*

### **To the Editor**

As President of the Western New York Lumber Dealers Association, I am writing to express my concerns regarding the Advanced Clean Truck (ACT) rule set to take effect in January. While the goal of advancing cleaner technologies is commendable, the timing and implementation of this regulation pose significant challenges for the building materials industry.

In Western New York, we face unique challenges due to the harsh winter conditions. The cold weather negatively impacts battery performance and reduces the effective range of electric vehicles, which is critical for our industry that relies on timely deliveries of building materials. Delays in transportation can hinder construction projects and disrupt the supply chain, ultimately affecting our customers and the local economy.

Furthermore, the financial burden of transitioning to electric vehicles is daunting. With commercial ZEVs costing nearly \$500,000 compared to traditional diesel trucks priced between \$180,000 and \$200,000, many businesses in the building materials sector simply cannot justify this investment, especially when you consider the fact that New York does not have a single publicly available charger for commercial vehicles.

If we are to move towards a sustainable future, it is crucial that we do so in a manner that does not jeopardize the stability of the building materials industry. I urge our state officials to reconsider the timeline for implementing the ACT rule. We need to prioritize the development of charging infrastructure and explore financial incentives that will enable our industry to embrace cleaner technologies without compromising our operations.

### **Michele Wild**

President

Western New York Lumber Dealers Association