

**DATE:** March 25, 2003

**TO:** Senate Transportation and Economic Development Committee

**FROM:** Gregg Dal Ponte, Administrator,  
Motor Carrier Transportation Division

**SUBJECT:** Senate Bill 425-2

### **INTRODUCTION**

At a February 27 hearing, the Senate Transportation and Economic Development Committee heard shippers testify that the existing over-dimension permitting system can hinder their ability to efficiently move products from farm to market. Specifically, truck tractor and 53-foot semitrailer combinations, one of the most common truck configurations, are not permitted to travel certain county roads even though shippers and carriers believe the roads can safely accommodate the vehicle.

At the conclusion of the hearing, the Committee Chairman asked that a Work Group meet to discuss problems and solutions. A group was formed to include representatives from the Oregon Farm Bureau, Association of Nurserymen, Christmas tree growers, Oregon Trucking Associations, Association of Oregon Counties, Clackamas, Linn, Marion, and Yamhill counties, City of Portland, League of Oregon Cities, and the Motor Carrier Transportation Division. This Work Group agrees that Senate Bill 425-1 could address the concerns with over-dimension permitting.

### **WHAT THE BILL DOES**

Senate Bill 425-2 accomplishes the following:

- Provides a way for a shipper or carrier to request that a road authority, other than a city, consider a specific road or road segment for unrestricted truck tractor and semitrailer access in lengths not currently allowed with or without a variance permit.
- Specifies that within 60 days a road authority will either approve the proposed operation or, if a previous evaluation hasn't been made, complete an evaluation of the request to see if the road can safely accommodate the proposed operation.
- Outlines a methodology for conducting test runs of vehicle combinations.
- Specifies that road authorities cannot use the over-dimension variance permit process for the exclusive purpose of establishing roads on which a vehicle or combination may not travel.
- Allows ODOT to adopt rules setting uniform requirements and mitigation strategies a road authority may apply to a truck tractor and semitrailer combination operating under a permit.

### **SUMMARY**

Senate Bill 425-2 provides a way for shippers and carriers to work with counties to determine if road restrictions and over-dimension permit requirements are appropriate. It provides uniform ways for counties to conduct test runs of vehicle combinations. It also establishes uniform permit requirements that may be applied to truck operators.