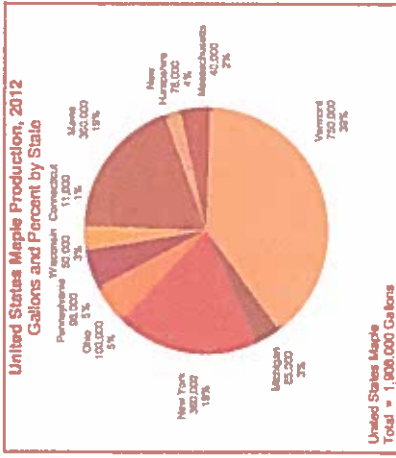
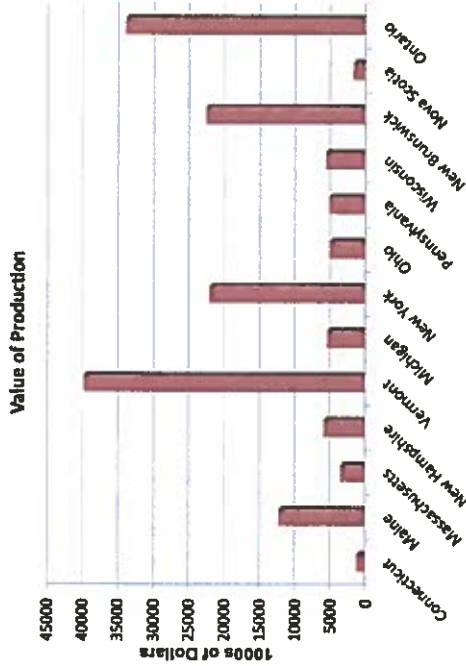
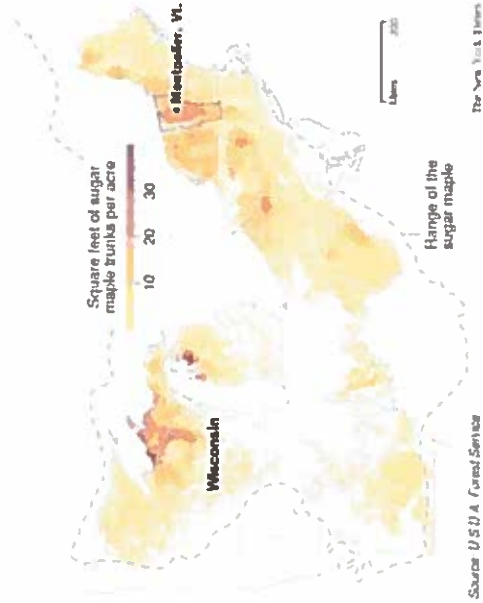




MICHIGAN MAPLE FACTS

Sugar Maple Tree Distribution



Michigan ranks 7th in maple syrup production in the United States. Michigan produced 148,000 gallons of pure maple syrup in 2013.

Michigan only taps 0.2 percent of its potential maple taps. If Michigan tapped 3% of available trees, value of production could increase to \$78 million.

Only 1 percent of Michigan's maple forest resource is used in maple syrup production. The maple industry in Michigan generates about \$2.5 million annually, and growing.



Michigan Maple Farms
CDL Michigan
11866 W. Thompson Rd.
Rudyard, MI 49780
Ph: 906.478.3038; 800.50.MAPLE
mjross@lighthouse.net



January 25, 2016

Dear Legislators;

I am writing this letter of support to assist the Commercial Maple Syrup Producers of Michigan (CMSPM) in their efforts with two bills currently up for consideration; House Bill 4418 and Senate Bill 314.

Being a producer of Pure Michigan Maple Syrup and a supplier of equipment, supplies and support for the Michigan maple industry, it is obvious that the hauling of maple sap, syrup, fuel, and other needs greatly impacts both the profitability and the willingness to expand or start maple operations in our great state. It would seem that it would be in everyone's best interest to keep our farmers on a level playing field with other states and provinces. Thank you in advance for your consideration in the matter.

Sincerely,

Mike Ross
Michigan Maple Farms/CDL Michigan
11866 W. Thompson Rd
Rudyard, MI 49780
906.478.3038; 800.50.MAPLE
mjross@lighthouse.net

To: CMSPM

From: Rick Miller – Partner, Northern Maple Products

Subject: Michigan vehicle load restrictions spring

Date: January 25, 2016

To Whom It May Concern, this article is about load restrictions during spring time maple syrup operations. It would be beneficial to our operation to legally haul full loads along county roads. We currently haul sap twenty six miles per trip, often having to make more than one trip per day. Being able to haul full loads of sap would decrease time and fuel cost by making half the normal amount of trips. Fewer trips means better production by spending unused time working on total quality control methods. These methods are executed by tending to the vast network of tubing used for sap production, which is very sensitive to weather change and damage. Tending to the tubing network is one of our best ways for increasing production, and helping to further grow the operation. Our current operation has a great potential to grow, with additional untapped property, surrounding sugar bushes, and close proximity to maple woods.

Our current business has been in operation for three seasons hauling eighty thousand gallons of maple sap. During that time we have hauled sap ourselves, and had neighboring sugar bushes in the surrounding area come to buy sap to haul away themselves. There are other maple syrup operations in the surrounding area that must haul the sap from their maple woods down country roads to where it is then refined into delicious maple syrup. There are many good sites in the surrounding area for other maple sugar bush operations, which may need to use the effective means of hauling sap. In conclusion, it is imperative for the future growth of the maple industry to be able to adequately utilize the roads to their advantage by hauling full loads of maple sap.

MapleMoon

Sugarbush and Winery, Inc.

4454 Atkins Rd. Petoskey, Mi. 49770

231-487-9058

Dear Mr. Craig Waldron and whom it may Concern,

I would like to take the time to express my support for the changes propose for the restrictions of road load limits as it relates to the hauling of maple sap. My family and I are medium sized commercial syrup producers in Northern Mich. We have the capacity to produce 300-400% more maple syrup than we already produce with our current equipment and facility. We have been offered over 500 acres to lease long term for maple sapping, but these areas are not directly connected to our property. Thus the only way that we can increase our production is to haul the sap on the roads to our farm for processing into syrup. Currently Mich. Law does not allow of any exemptions for hauling maple sap in the spring when the load limit restrictions are in force. Thus our ability to expand is currently not possible. Spring road load limit restrictions present the same problem for many other producers we know too. Please pass this proposed bill and help families and farmers grow Michigan's Maple syrup potential. It is good for Michigan because it can create jobs and commerce in all of the different communities in the state. Again we support this bill!

Respectfully Submitted,

Todd and Christi Petersen and Family,

MapleMoon Sugarbush and Winery, Inc.

----- Original message -----

From: Dan <tsugarbush@cedarville.net>
Date: 01/25/2016 4:09 PM (GMT-05:00)
To: cwaldron <cwaldron@centurylink.net>
Subject: Bill 4419

To The House Transportation Committee

As a member of CMSPM I am writing in support of House Bill 4418.

I am a maple syrup producer located in Cedarville. I buy sap from 3 other local sap operations. In order to expand we need our suppliers to be able to haul heavier loads.

Sap is a perishable product that has to be processed within 24 hours.

We only have a window of 3 - 6 weeks, which happens to be in the early spring, while the load limits are on.

At this time we have one full time employee and two part time. With expansion we will be able to hire more people.

Sincerely,
Dan Tassier Owner - operator
Tassier Sugar Bush, Inc

Ridley Family Sugar Farm
1178 68th St.
South Haven, MI 49090
(269) 206-2135

January 23, 2016

To the members of the House Transportation Committee;

I am writing this letter in support of the Commercial Maple Syrup Producers of Michigan (CMSPM.) I am a board member with the CMSPM and a Maple Syrup producer in South Haven, Michigan. We are asking you to please, seriously consider adding maple sap and maple syrup to the list of agriculture products that are granted waivers for load limits.

For our family farm, seeing a change like this would allow us a much greater opportunity for growth. As a maple producer, I am taking a risk every time I need to haul sap from my sugarbush to my sugarhouse. If we were to get pulled over and ticketed, it would shut down our season; and therefore, a portion of my familie's income.

As a member of the CMSPM, we are excited to see the potential for growth in the maple syrup industry in Michigan. If this change is made, I will feel a great deal more secure in my decision to continue to grow our maple syrup operation. It would allow my business to expand to other sugarbushes outside of my neighborhood. It would allow others to haul sap to my sugarhouse without risk of breaking the load limits.

Please consider how this small change could affect the maple syrup industry in Michigan. We are excited to have such amazing opportunities for growth in our state and a change in the load limits would greatly help us to move forward in that direction.

Thank you for your time and help in this matter.

Sincerely,

Brian Ridley
Ridley Family Sugar Farm

I am writing this letter to let you know how important it is to open up transportation of Maple Syrup. Maple Sap season comes every year fast and furious, doesn't last a long time and there is a lot of time energy and efforts put into to this process from many Maple Syrup Producers. One of the main concerns is that when the Sap Woods is at least 5 miles or more from the Sap Shack it is very important on getting the sap as safely and quickly as possible to the Sap operation for processing so that the product does not start deteriorating and would not be able to be used. I understand that the CMSPM has been working with our legislators on load limit waivers for transporting maple sap or syrup during the spring and I support their efforts and do hope that you would choose to pass the bills that are currently being worked on. If this was to pass I would be able to lease more woods and enlarge our Maple Production, by being able to haul larger loads at processing time. Thank you for your time I really hope that you would be able to help the Maple Syrup Producers of Michigan.

Eddie Troyer
Ed's Maple Syrup
Fairview, Michigan

To: CMSPM

Hi! I am a maple producer in Oscoda county. This letter is in support of the bill in regards to allowing sugarmakers to haul heavier loads when transporting sap. This is very important to me as I am in the situation where all our sap needs to be hauled with a tank from the woods to our sugarhouse, which is over a mile. Sap is a perishable product, (just like milk) and needs to be processed as soon as possible. I think we all want to grow the maple industry in Michigan and if that is our goal we as sugarmakers must strive to make high quality syrup. In order to do so it is crucial that sap gets transported in a timely

→

manner and gets processed
to syrup. Therefore, we would
greatly appreciate^{it} if the bill
passed. Thank You! -

Daniel Miller
Miller Brothers Maple



SUGARBUSH, LLC

10566 S. Johnson Rd.

Blanchard, MI 49310

Telephone: 989-866-6177

Website: www.doodlessugarbush.com

Email: info@doodlessugarbush.com

January 25, 2016

House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
Lansing, Michigan

RE: Load limit waiver

Dear Sir/Madam:

As a member of the Commercial Maple Syrup Producers of Michigan and as a farmer in Isabella County, I am writing to ask you to support legislation that will allow maple syrup producers to move products and equipment to sustain their normal agricultural enterprises on highways. Having a load limit waiver is crucial to the continued success of my operation. I currently have several area farmers who truck in their sap to our farm so that we may boil it down for them. I also own property a couple of miles away from my sugarhouse and must truck in maple sap. Having such a waiver would provide much-needed uniformity and would allow maple producers to continue to conduct their agricultural business on highways. It also provides producers the opportunity to generate more income.

The maple syrup industry in Michigan is continuing to grow as more and more producers are realizing the profitability of this all natural commodity. Please allow us the same support as the milk industry and allow us a waiver to be on the roads during our season.

We appreciate your favorable consideration of this legislation and stand ready to work with the committee on this important issue.

Thank you.

Steve Henson

Steve Henson