

MASON TOWNSHIP, ARENAC COUNTY
SENATE BILL 396 OPPOSITION
Resolution 2018-1107

WHEREAS, Roads are the backbone to the social, cultural and economic stability of Mason Township, Arenac County and the State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill (SB) 396 (S-5) passed and reported out of the Senate Transportation Committee on September 6, 2018 allows exemptions from seasonal weight restrictions (aka “frost laws”) to the forest product industry during the spring thaw when roads are the most vulnerable to damage from heavy loads; and

WHEREAS, It is a fact in Mason Township, Arenac County and throughout the northern states that roads become soft in the spring and allowing unrestricted 164,000 pound truck loading on soft roads defies common sense and a law allowing such nonsense is poor public policy; and

WHEREAS, SB 396 also grants exemptions to the forest industry that will allow the hauling of forest products and transport of equipment on the public road system without obtaining proper permits from road authorities at all times of the year; and

WHEREAS, the provisions from SB 396 will result in damage to the public road system; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of SB 396 will negatively impact the traveling public accessing the road system, resulting in burdening road authorities with expensive maintenance repairs and significantly increased taxpayer costs to maintain the public road system; and

WHEREAS, the provisions in SB 396 and subsequent impacts to the local road system will negatively impact the health, safety and welfare of Mason Township and Arenac County residents and the traveling public; and

WHEREAS, the Arenac County Road Commission and the other road commissions throughout the State of Michigan work closely with the logging industry to keep the economic vitality of the County and the State of Michigan moving by continuously monitoring road conditions and permitting the logging industry to move equipment and material on roads when the roads can structurally support such loading without negatively impacting the road system and traveling public;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mason Township Board hereby strongly opposes SB 396; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a vote hereon be taken by aye and nay and spread at large on the minutes of the Board. On this 7th day of November, 2018 the Board voted five (aye) and zero (nay) to adopt this resolution.

MASON TOWNSHIP BOARD
ARENAC COUNTY