



**Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter
Lt. Governor Brad Little**

October 25, 2018

The transportation of agricultural commodities—and particularly perishables—from multiple areas across Idaho has been increasingly challenging due to truck shortages, new federal regulations and rail car availability.

After discussions with agricultural shippers, we had multiple discussions with Union Pacific, Watco, the Idaho Trucking Association and others about the realistic options for shipping perishable commodities this season out of the southern Idaho. We pushed on the factors we knew were important to agribusinesses. In turn, we heard about some of the intractable challenges transportation companies face.

While rail cars, trucks and operators will continue to be in short supply, we have tried to address some of the concerns we heard you voice when we met in June. We heard several times from shippers that loading time was counting against drive time. Enclosed, you will find a State of Idaho memorandum about electronic logging device (ELD) enforcement for agricultural shipping. This memorandum is intended to clarify the exemptions available today for agricultural shippers.

In terms of rail service, there are some important notes to consider:

- UP cars will continue to be in short supply in southwestern Idaho.
- It is highly unlikely food trains/express train service will be available out of Nampa.
- Manifest service will be available out of Nampa. The majority of frozen potatoes in the area are shipped on manifest so it is the best chance of getting refrigerated cars out of Nampa.
- Private cars are available for subleasing. This is obviously an added cost that does not work for every operation. Watco has articulated a strong desire to work with shippers in this area.
- Transloading at Burley is an option to consider. It provides express service to the East Coast via rail: link to UP’s Cold Connect service via Watco’s Perishable Express service.

Option	Note	Method	Note	Contact
Trucking		Truck	See ELD exemption memo.	Regular carrier contacts
Manifest service out Nampa—UP cars	UP cars on manifest trains out of Nampa	Rail	Cars shortages will continue.	Emily Bray Ag Product Sales, UP elbray@up.com (208) 465-8266 or (402) 672-7841
Manifest service out of Nampa—leased private cars	Leased private cars managed by Watco onto UP manifest in Nampa	Rail	Watco is one option for coordinating private car leasing.	Ted Kadau Watco Commercial VP, BVRR tkadau@watcocompanies.com (208) 791-8889
Truck to Burley—transload—Pocatello	Truck to Watco Burley terminal—transload onto rail—moved to Pocatello to food train/express service. Service to Chicago and East Coast via rail.	Truck and rail	See ELD exemption memo. Watco has partnerships for local trucking.	Lucas Bellamy, Watco Comm. Manager, Magic Valley lbellamy@watcocompanies.com (208) 431-2556