



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

**P.A. LANDERS, INC. AND COMPANY PRINCIPALS
INDICTED FOR DEFRAUDING THE COMMONWEALTH ON PAVING PROJECTS**

Boston, MA...A federal Grand Jury returned an Indictment today charging a Plymouth road construction company and two of its principals with conspiring to defraud the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and several of its municipalities by generating fake and inflated asphalt weight tickets on government-funded paving projects.

United States Attorney Michael J. Sullivan and Theodore L. Doherty, Special Agent in Charge of the Department of Transportation, Office of the Inspector General in New England, and Rebecca A. Sparkman, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation, announced today that **P.A. LANDERS, INC., PRESTON A. LANDERS**, age 56, of Hanover, Massachusetts, and **GREGORY R. KEELAN**, age 49, of Pembroke, Massachusetts, were charged in a six-count Indictment with Conspiring to Defraud the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and Several of its Municipalities, and Using the Mails to Defraud the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and Several of its Municipalities.

The Indictment alleges that, from 1996 through at least March, 2003, the defendants generated fake and inflated asphalt weight tickets on government-funded paving projects on which **P.A. LANDERS, INC.** worked. The Indictment alleges that, shortly after the company built its asphalt production plant in Plymouth in 1995, **LANDERS**, President of the company, ordered that a manual override device be installed in the plant's computer control room. The Indictment alleges that, at the direction of **LANDERS** and **KEELAN**, company employees used that override device to generate fake asphalt weight tickets, which did not correspond to any actual asphalt load, as well as inflated asphalt weight tickets, which overstated the amount of asphalt contained in an actual load.

The Indictment further alleges that, at the direction of **LANDERS, KEELAN, and P.A. LANDERS, INC.**, company employees delivered the fraudulent asphalt weight tickets to government-funded paving projects. The Indictment further alleges that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and several of its municipalities relied on those fraudulent weight tickets in determining the payments to which **P.A. LANDERS, INC.** was entitled on government-funded

paving projects.

If convicted on these charges, **LANDERS** and **KEELAN** each face up to 20 years' imprisonment, to be followed by 5 years of supervised release, and a \$250,000 fine. **P.A. LANDERS, INC.** faces a maximum fine of up to two times the determined loss and restitution. Additionally, the company could also be debarred from obtaining contracts on future government-funded public works projects.

The case was investigated by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Office of the Inspector General and the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation with assistance from the Massachusetts Highway Department. The U.S. Attorney's Office would like to especially thank the Massachusetts Highway Department for its assistance and support during this investigation. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Emily R. Schulman in Sullivan's Public Corruption and Special Prosecutions Unit and Assistant U.S. Attorney George B. Henderson, II, in Sullivan's Civil Division.

The details contained in the Indictment are allegations. The defendants are presumed to be innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

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