

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sharon Schwartz at 3:30pm on Tuesday, February 17, 2015, 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Shannon Francis – Excused

Representative Sue Boldra – Excused

Committee staff present:

Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department

Joanna Wochner, Legislative Research Department

Shirley Jepson, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

Natalie Scott, Office of Revisor of Statutes

David Wiese, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Taff Hughes, U.S. Custom Harvesters, Inc.

Chris Tymeson, Chief Legal Counsel, Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Presentation by U.S. Custom Harvesters, Inc.

Taff Hughes, Vice-President, U.S. Custom Harvesters, Inc. (USCHI) appeared before the Committee to provide information on the role of the custom harvesters across the state ([Attachment 1](#)) .

Mr. Hughes stated that USCHI has approximately 100 members across the state. These small businesses, on an average operate 3 combines or choppers per member. Each combine harvests on an average of 7,000 acres per combine per season and an average of 5,000 acres per chopper per season.

Mr. Hughes requested the Committee's assistance and support in their efforts to amend the federal transportation laws to allow expanded truck lengths for custom harvesters from the current 75 feet to 81 1/2 feet of two combined trailers behind one semi-tractor. This would allow more efficient movement of larger equipment (headers) on interstate roads. Once the federal government acts, USCHI will pursue passage of **HB 2166**, now pending in the House Transportation Committee.

Hearing on: HB2117 — Requiring the completion of a boater safety education course.

Natalie Scott, Revisor, provided an explanation of **HB 2117**, noting that the bill would require all people born after January 1, 1995, to complete a boater safety source to operate a motorboat or sailboat on public waters in Kansas ([Attachment 2](#)) .

Chris Tymeson, Chief Legal Counsel, Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism, appeared before the Committee in support of **HB2117** ([Attachment 3](#)). Mr. Tymeson noted that, if passed into law, the bill would become effective January 1, 2016. The law requiring a boat safety course is brought forth to address a trend of escalating boating-related accidents, fatalities and property damage; noting that

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Kansas has an average of 40 boating-related accidents per year.

There were no other proponents, neutrals or opponents on **HB2117** to come before the Committee.

The hearing on **HB2117** was closed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2015.