

To: House Transportation Committee

From: Eric B. Smith, Legal Counsel

Date: February 17, 2016

RE: Opposition to HB 2644 **(Written Only)**

I want to thank Chairman Proehl and Committee members for allowing the League of Kansas Municipalities to provide written testimony in opposition to HB 2644.

One of the core functions of a municipal government is to provide a system of streets and roads to promote commerce and public safety. League member cities are responsible for the maintenance of the roads and streets as well as drainage culverts and bridges located within their boundaries. Streets are designed and engineered to withstand the weight and traffic that is anticipated in an area based on several factors. Maximum weight limit is one of those factors and the League is concerned that HB 2644, by allowing vehicles to exceed these weight limits, would cause damage to our members' streets, culverts and bridges.

The League understands the desires of those who would like the ability to haul more weight during harvest time, however, the League cannot support a bill that will likely result in causing damage to city streets, culverts and bridges. HB 2644 would provide a benefit to those who transport grain but, at the expense of the taxpayers of the municipalities who must maintain the streets these over-weight vehicles will travel.

The League is concerned that if HB 2644 is approved, exempting those who haul grain, that other industries will be in line asking that they also be allowed to exceed the weight limits. Exempting one industry creates a dangerous precedent.

Based on the above the League of Kansas Municipalities respectfully requests that the Committee **not** pass out HB 2644.