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Testimony of the US Custom Harvesters, Inc. in support of SB 271

To: Senate Transportation Committee
Chairman Mike Petersen

From: Allie Devine, Devine, Donley & Murray on behalf of USCHI

Re: SB 271

Good Morning Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

The US Custom Harvesters, Inc. (USCHI) is a trade association with nearly 400 members and almost 100 of those are Kansas businesses. Their national office is located in Hutchinson, Kansas. The members of USCHI travel throughout the US harvesting crops. The members travel an average of 130 days for grain harvesting and 100 days for forage harvesting.

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. These businesses contribute to every local economy in which they work. For example, they purchase over 19 million gallons of fuel and spend over \$22 million for employee meals over 130 days. It is estimated that labor costs exceed \$64 million.

Today, we are here to support passage of SB 271. The bill amends K. S. A. 2014 Supp. 8-1904 (g) to clarify that one truck and one trailer vehicle combination used in hauling a combine, *forage cutter or combine header* to be used in custom harvesting operations shall not exceed 75 feet exclusive of front and rear overhang. Attached please find a photograph of the equipment that is intended to be included in the exemption now found in this section of the law. In the picture, the truck is approximately 35 feet long, and the header trailer is approximately 32 feet long plus an additional 4 feet of trailer hitch and an overhang of not more than 4 feet for a combined length of not more than 75 feet.

We ask that the bill be further amended to include the words “forage cutter or combine header” on page 2, line 25 after the word “combine” for clarity and consistency within the section.

It is our understanding that this amendment would not impact any federal funding. We ask that this bill be passed and published as soon as possible to allow transport of this equipment this harvest season.