

To: Senate Committee on Transportation, Senator Petersen, Chairman

From: Ryan Flickner, Kansas Farm Bureau

Date: January 26, 2016

**Re: SB 99 - Creating an exception to maximum vehicle length requirements
for custom harvesters**

Good morning Chairman Petersen and Members of the Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to present written testimony on behalf of the Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB) in support of SB 99. KFB is the state's largest general farm organization representing more than 40,000 farm and ranch families through our 105 county Farm Bureau Associations.

Congress recently passed and the president signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 114-113) that included language to allow Kansas to make adjustments for truck lengths for custom harvesters as they move equipment within Kansas. The language allows a one truck-tractor two trailer combination or a one truck-tractor semitrailer combination, that serve as property carrying units used to transport equipment by custom harvesters to have a maximum length of 81.5 feet, excluding load. SB 99 makes Kansas law consistent with the federal law.

It should be noted that the fiscal note from last year is no longer accurate. Since the federal law now allows Kansas to extend the maximum length in this situation, there is no risk of losing federal funding.

This exemption, if adopted, will save custom harvesters time and money in the movement of equipment. Additionally, with longer lengths being allowed fewer trips will be needed to transport equipment in Kansas. In total, these factors will allow for more efficient and timely harvesting of the crops for our members. Thank you for your time, and we ask you to support passage of SB 99.