

STATE OF KANSAS

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SENATE CHAMBER

Proponent Testimony for SB 17

Thank you Chairman Peterson and Committee Members for the opportunity to appear before you today in support of **SB 17**.

Simply Stated, **SB17** would exempt haulers of grain and other agricultural products from certain weight limitations during harvest. A load may be up to 10% greater than the maximum weight allowed by law for vehicles with tandem, triple or quad axels for up to 12.5% greater than the maximum weight allowed for vehicles with a single rear axle. However, the maximum gross weight cannot exceed 90,000, as is current law.

I asked for introduction of **SB 17** because it's an issue that for too long has not been permanently addressed by the Legislature. What am I referencing? Over aggressive Motor Carrier Inspectors searching for, and eventually finding, a reason to write a traffic citation, especially to agriculture producers.

This issue was first brought to my attention during the 2007-2008 sessions when I served as vice-chairman of the House Transportation Committee. I well remember a meeting in Majority Leader Merrick's office where House Transportation Chairman, Gary Hayzlett, Congressman Jerry Moran and I met with a representative of the Kansas Motor Carriers.

During the meeting, Congressman Moran and Chairman Hayzlett voiced their displeasure with the aggression of certain motor carrier inspectors.

After the meeting, it was agreed that the motor carrier inspectors would be less aggressive.

Over time the agreement faded away. On several occasions over the years, legislators have had to voice their concerns and they received assurances that the motor carrier inspector's over aggression would cease.

I believe this will continue to be an issue for our agriculture producers until we permanently address it in statute. I'm glad to stand for questions at the appropriate time.