

January 19, 2012

MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY RULES AND REGULATIONS

Chairman Umbarger and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak before the Committee concerning motor carrier safety rules and regulations. As legislators, I believe it is our responsible to repeal and enact laws that do not hinder our Kansas industries in the operation of their businesses.

For the past several years, I have been contacted by numerous businesses in regard to outdated regulations and how these regulations have impacted their ability to do business in Kansas. Custom harvesters and trailer manufacturers are especially affected. Through the years the size of equipment has changed to reflect the changes in business practices. Consequently the size of trailers and trucks have changed to accommodate the newer equipment. Currently the maximum length allowed is 65 feet. This regulation needs to be changed to at least 81 ½ ft to reflect larger and heavier equipment.

Agriculture and Agribusinesses are the backbone of the Kansas Economy. We sit as the breadbasket of the US. It is important that we make the necessary changes to support this industries affected by this outdated regulation.

I urge your support to bring about these changes in current legislation.

Representative Sharon Schwartz