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TESTIMONY

Date: February 17, 2015
Before: House Committee on Transportation
By: Jacob Wade, Wade Quarries
Regarding: HB 2242 – Concerning permitted axle loads

Good Afternoon Chairman Proehl and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jacob Wade, Vice-President of Wade Quarries in LaCygne, Kansas. Our company was founded by my grandfather Ivan Wade and has been family owned and operated since 1958. We produce a variety of construction limestone aggregates, including concrete aggregates, asphalt aggregates, road rock, cover materials, base rock, pipe bedding and many ASTM, KDOT and MODOT specified materials as well as Ag Lime. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today in support of HB 2242, a measure dealing with axle weight limits on Kansas roads.

While Kansas is blessed with plentiful amounts of limestone it is unfortunately contained in many shallow thin ledges throughout our state. In order for us to provide the vital building products our state relies on, it necessary to mine it from these small quarries. As a result, this requires us to transport equipment from time to time in order to maintain production. Over many years we have done this in a variety of ways including using a practice sometimes referred to as “roading”; or driving a piece of off highway equipment over a variety of roads from point A to point B. Due to their size, “roading” is the preferred method for moving Off-Highway Trucks from one quarry to the next for the following reasons:

- It is inherently safer to “road” or drive these types of vehicles as opposed to transporting them on a lo-boy trailer.
- It Saves time and money for the operators involved and ultimately the public.
- It Saves wear and tear on public roads by lowering gross weight.



Over the years this practice has been generally recognized as appropriate by most law-enforcement agencies. Further, the legislature has provided exemptions for these vehicles for registration and gross weight limits, however with one minor exception in KSA 8-1908 governing axle weight limits. Recently, in an exception to a long-standing practice, two of our off highway trucks were ticketed for a violation of this statute. The purpose of HB 2242 is to amend KSA 8-1908 to allow this practice of "roading" to continue. We urge you to recommend HB 2242 favorably.

Thank for the opportunity to present these comments. I am pleased to respond to any questions you may have at the appropriate time.