KANSAS RAILROADS

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Railroad Opposition to HB 2644

My name is Pat Hubbell. I am here today opposing amendments to HB 2644. Increasing existing truck size and weight limits would mean higher taxpayer costs to repair damage to our highways and bridges; more highway gridlock; and more harm to the environment. The taxes and fees that heavy trucks pay are already far less than the cost of the damage that heavy trucks cause. This multi-billion dollar annual underpayment — which other motorists and the general public have to make up for through higher taxes — would become even greater if truck size and weight limits were increased.

Truck weight limits on the Interstate Highway System were set at 80,000 pounds by Congress in 1982; truck length and weight limits for longer combination vehicles (LCVs) - tractors with two or more trailers weighing more than 80,000 pounds - were frozen in 1991. These limits were imposed largely because of concerns about the safety of longer and heavier trucks and the uncompensated highway damage that heavy trucks cause. Kansas limits are set at 85,500 pounds on state highways.

Legislation to increase these limits on federal highways have been proposed many times over the years. To date, all attempts at nationwide increases have failed — most recently in 2015 — because the concerns that led to the federal limits in the first place are still valid.

A 2000 U.S. DOT study found that increased truck size and weights would lead to a sharp decline in rail traffic. More recent studies have confirmed this, projecting that an increase in allowable truck weight from 80,000 pounds to 97,000 pounds could reduce merchandise traffic on Class I railroads by up to 50 percent and overall Class I rail traffic by up to 19 percent. Traffic on short line railroads could suffer similarly large diversion, likely crippling many short lines. An estimated 6 million to 12 million additional trucks could be added to our nation's already overcrowded highways because of diversion of freight from rail to trucks that don't pay their own way.

Unlike trucks, barges, and airlines, America's privately-owned freight railroads operate almost exclusively on infrastructure that they own, build, maintain, and pay for themselves. Freight diversion would mean that railroads would have less money to reinvest in their networks, leading to reduced rail capacity and poorer rail service. Railroads are not afraid of competition, but the playing field should be level.

Traffic diversion would also harm the environment. Since railroads are, on average, four times more fuel efficient than trucks, diversion could increase fuel consumption by hundreds of millions of gallons per year and increase greenhouse gas emissions accordingly.

Polls have consistently found that Americans overwhelmingly oppose bigger and heavier trucks because of cost and safety concerns. For example, a March 2010 poll of 3,000 AAA members in Missouri found 90 percent were opposed to bigger trucks on the highways.

In fact, polls show that the public believes that enforcement of existing truck size and weight limits is inadequate, and that if any changes are to be made, they should be in the direction of more restrictive limits, rather than more permissive limits.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this material.

Kansas

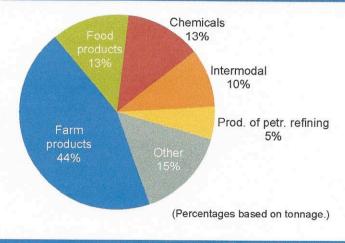
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		The Year	I TAIL	BLP I B In BLP III

Operations	Number of freight railroads	13
	Freight railroad mileage	4,855
Employment	Number of freight rail employees	5,427
and Earnings	Average wages & benefits per freight rail employee	\$115,270
Railroad	Number of railroad retirement beneficiaries	13,575
Retirement	Railroad retirement benefits paid	\$278 million
Economic Impact	Nationwide, each freight rail job supports 4.5 jobs elsewhere in the econ billion in new rail investment supports more than 17,000 jobs.	nomy. Each \$1
Fuel Efficiency	In 2013, America's railroads moved a ton of freight an average of 473 m gallon of fuel. That's like going from Topeka to Dallas. On average, rai times more fuel efficient than trucks. Moving freight by rail instead of trugreenhouse gas emissions by 75 percent.	Iroads are four

Cutting Highway Gridlock

One train can carry as much freight as several hundred trucks. It would have taken approximately 19.1 million additional trucks to handle the 344.6 million tons of freight that originated in, terminated in, or moved through Kansas by rail in 2012.

Rail Traffic Originated in 2012 Total Tons: 17.9 million Total Carloads: 332,100

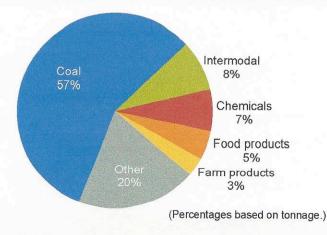


Commodity	Tons	Carloads
Farm products	7,971,000	90,100
Food products	2,298,000	33,400
Chemicals	2,248,000	24,800
Intermodal	1,734,000	101,400
Prod. of petr. refining	972,000	12,700
Other	2,689,000	69,600

Kansas was sixth nationally in 2012 in originated rail tons of farm products. Three-fourths of that was wheat; the rest was mainly sorghum, corn, and soybeans. Food products consists of flour, soybean oil, animal byproducts, and more.

Rail Traffic Terminated in 2012

Total Tons:	23.4 million	Total Ca	rloads: 384,	200



Commodity	Tons	Carloads
Coal	13,327,000	110,800
Intermodal	1,967,000	148,300
Chemicals	1,610,000	17,500
Food products	1,103,000	14,200
Farm products	740,000	7,600
Other	4,637,000	85,700

More than 60 percent of the electricity generated in Kansas in 2012 came from coal, and nearly all of that coal was delivered to Kansas power plants by railroad.



Freight Railroads in Kansas

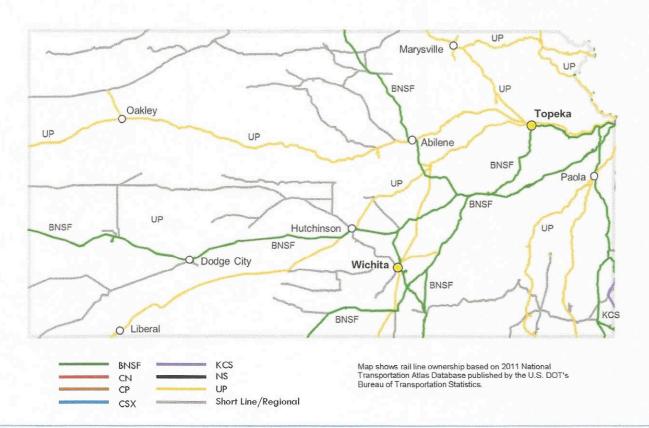
	Miles Operated In
	Kansas in 2012
Class I Railroads	
BNSF Railway Company	1,709
Kansas City Southern Railway Co.	18
Norfolk Southern Corp.	2
Union Pacific Railroad Co.	2,205
	3,934
Regional Railroads	
Kansas & Oklahoma Railroad, Inc.	867
Kyle Railroad	507
Nebraska Kansas Colorado Railway	, Inc. 135
	1,509

Kansas		Miles O	perated
2012 Totals	Number	Excluding	Including
	of Freight	Trackage	Trackage
	Railroads	Rights	Rights
Class I	4	2,816	3,934
Regional	3	1,429	1,509
Local	4	367	367
Switching & Terminal	2	243	243
Total	13	4,855	6,053

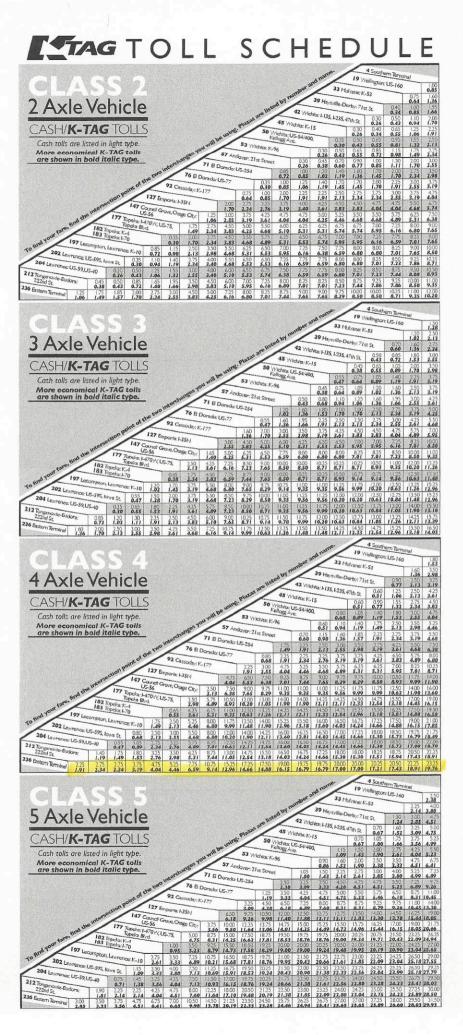
Miles Operated In Kansas in 2012

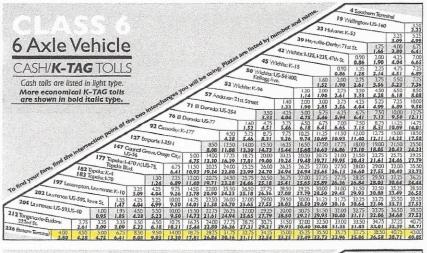
Local Railroads	
Blackwell Northern Gateway Railroad Co.	17
Missouri & Northern Arkansas Railroad	4
South Kansas & Oklahoma Railroad	320
V & S Railway, LLC	26
	367

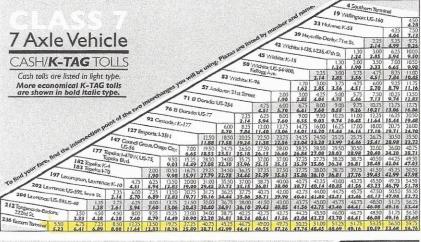
Switching & Terminal Railroads Cimarron Valley Railroad 203 Garden City Western Railway 40 243

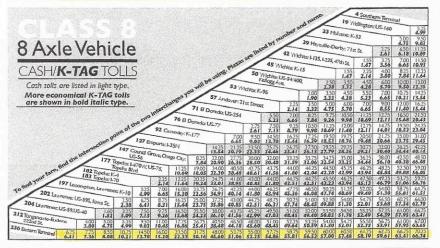


Class I Railroad: A railroad with 2012 operating revenues of at least \$452.7 million. Regional Railroad: A non-Class I line-haul railroad that has annual revenues of at least \$40 million, or that operates at least 350 miles of road and revenues of at least \$20 million. Local Railroad: A railroad which is neither a Class I nor a Regional Railroad, and which is engaged primarily in line-haul service. Switching & Terminal Railroad: A non-Class I railroad engaged primarily in switching and/or terminal services for other railroads. Railroads operating are as of December 31, 2012. Some mileages may be estimated.









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ur fare	182 To	pela:K.	4	d	250	11.64	19.95	35.63	42.04	44.41	45.60	45.84	46.08	46.79	47.26	52.00	54.00	54.86	61.5
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201 Lawrence US	-59S, lo	ma Sr	3.00	8.00 7.60	7.36 9.75 9.26	16.39 17.50 16.63	27.25 25.89	38.24 41.50 39.43	43.94 47.25 44.89	46.08 49.25 46.79	53.75 51.06	55.00 52.25	56.00 53.20	58.00	59.25	60.25 57.24	62.25	66.25	69.1
	40	1.90	3.50	8.50 8.08	10.50	18.00	27.75	42.00	48.25	49.50	54.50 51.78	55.75	57.00	59.50 55.58		60.75 57.71	63.00 59.85	67.25	69.5
12 Tonganovie-Eudora:	4.75	5.70	6.00 5.70	10.25	11.75	19.50	2925 27.79	44.75 42.51	51.25 48.69	52.50 49.88	56.25 53.44	57.50 54.63	58.25 55.34	59.75 56.76	6050 57.48	61.75 58.66	63.75 60.56	68.00 64.60	74.
6 Esstern Terroired 7.50	8.50	9.75 9.26	12.00	16.00	17.00	26.00	34.75 33.01	52.75 50.11	59.00 56.05	60.50 57.48	63.50 60.33	64.75	65.50 62.23	66.00 62.70	66.50	67.25 63.89	69.00 65.55	69.59	73.6

ENFORCEMENT OPTIONS-

Officers may elect one or more of the following enforcement options depending on the situation:

- Shifting or redistribution of the load may be required.
- Off-loading may be required in certain situations (e.g. the Interstate system).
- Drivers of overweight vehicles may be cited.
- Cash bonds may be required to insure a court appearance.

Penalties

The following penalties are applicable to a first conviction for gross vehicle weight and axle weight violations.

7501 and over	5001 to 7500	2001 to 5000	1001 to 2000	up to 1000	Pounds Overweight
0.10 per pound	0.07 per pound	0.05 per pound	0.03 per pound	\$25.00	Fine

Second and subsequent convictions result in progressively stiffer penalties.



The Bridge Table

				-			
Distance	2 axles	3 axles	4 axles	5axles	Distance 2 axles 3 axles 4 axles 5 axles 6 axles 7 axles 8 axles	7 axles	8 axles
4	34,000						
S	34,000						
6	34,000						
7	34,000						
8 & less	34,000	34,000					
Over 8	38,000	42,000					
9	39,000	42,500					
10	40,000	43,500					
11		44,000					
12		45,000	50,000				
13		45,500	50,500				
14		46,500	51,500				
-		47 000	2000				

79,500 83,000 80,000 83,500 84,000 85,000
81,500
77,500 81,000 85,500
80,000
79,000
74,500 78,500 83,500
77,500
76,500
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61,000
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52.000
51,500

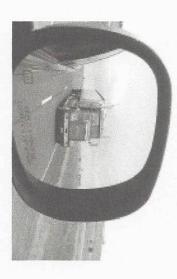
- * Two consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry 34,000 pounds each if
 the overall distance between the first and last axles is 36 feet or more.

 Mayinum gross which tallowed or Kanson inspection had been accompanied.
- Maximum gross weight allowed on Kansas interstate highways is 80,000 pounds
- Maximum gross weight allowed elsewhere, without permit, is 85,500 pounds.

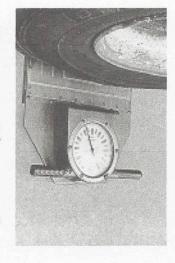


Why is Weight Enforced?

- Overweight vehicles damage roadways and shorten their life.
- One five-axle truck weighs about the same as 20 automobiles, but its impact on the roadway is the same as 9,600 automobiles (GAO Report 197922-4).
- An axle weight of 26,000 lbs. is only 30 percent greater than an axle weight of 20,000 lbs., but the effect on the roadway is 200 percent greater.



Public tax dollars must be utilized to repair premature deterioration of roadways and bridges caused by overweight vehicles.



Weight Laws

- Maximum gross weight in Kansas is 85,500 lbs. (80,000 lbs. on interstate highways.)
- Gross weight is defined as the total weight of the vehicle or vehicles and the load thereon.
- Maximum single axle weight is 20,000 lbs.
- Maximum tandem axle weight is 34,000 lbs.
- The Federal Bridge Formula Chart is used to determine violations of bridge law.
- Maximum legal width is 8.5 feet.
- Maximum height is 14 feet (except vehicles hauling large round bales of hay which is 14.5 feet).
- Kansas registered vehicles towing trailers must have enough gross weight registration to cover everything hauled and/or towed (K.S.A. 8-142(7)).

Kansas Highway Patrol Weight Enforcement Policies

Voluntary compliance with weight laws along with a progressive weight enforcement program are necessary to insure our network of roads and bridges will continue to meet the needs of all Kansans.

PORTABLE SCALES -

- Officers may allow a 5 percent tolerance up to a 1,500 lb. maximum.
- Single Axle- Maximum tolerance is 1,000 lbs.
- Tandem Axle- Maximum tolerance is 1,500 lbs.

FIXED SCALES-

- No tolerance is allowed when using fixed scales.
- These scales are certified to be in error no more than 0.1 percent, and federal requirements dictate that no tolerances be allowed.

