

To this assembly,

My name is Tim Berndsen, a farmer from Butler County, thank you for your time to listen to my support of HB2644.

I was pulled over by Highway Patrol/DOT during soybean harvest. I wasn't breaking any traffic laws. The officer admitted to me that he knew I was a farmer since I pulled onto the highway from a gravel road. He had me weigh each axle on his portable scales, which to me took forever! I was overweight by 8,000 pounds, the weight of an empty pickup truck.

I got a hefty fine, but more importantly, held up an entire harvest crew trying to beat the oncoming rains. There is no possible way of knowing the weight of a commodity from any given point of a field, it can vary 10 pounds per unit. Semi-trailers are loaded to haul 900 units. That is a possible 9,000 pound variance. I thought this was absurd, so I did some research. This is what I found. In short, of other farm states.

Iowa: Governor signed weight limitation exemptions for farmers during harvest, not to exceed 90,000 pounds, excluding interstate highways.

Wisconsin: Act# 377, fall harvest exemptions not to exceed 15%...92,000 pounds.

Missouri: Harvest exemptions not to exceed 10%...88,000 pounds.

Illinois: Harvest exemptions, not to exceed 88,000 pounds, enacted in 2004.

I am not asking for special treatment, just your wisdom and common sense. Thank you, it's a true honor to speak to one of stature for a change. It's a breath of fresh air to me, if nothing else. Truly hope you vote in favor to support the backbone of Kansas's economy.

Sincerely,

Tim Berndsen
Farmer

