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Sam Brownback, Governor

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
REGARDING SENATE BILL 99
INCREASING LENGTH LIMITATIONS FOR CUSTOM HARVESTERS**

March 9, 2016

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) is providing written testimony in support of SB99, which would amend K.S.A. 2014 Supp. 8-1904, to increase the length limitations for a one truck-tractor two trailer combination or one truck tractor two semitrailer combination utilized by custom harvesters.

On December 18, 2015, an amendment to applicable federal law specifically authorized Kansas to allow for the operation of longer combinations of vehicles. The federal amendment specifies that Kansas may allow the operation of a combination of a truck tractor and two trailers or semitrailers where the following conditions are met:

- (a) the property carrying units do not exceed 81 feet, six inches;
- (b) the units are used by custom harvesters under contract with agricultural producers;
- (c) the units are used to transport equipment used to harvest one or more of wheat, soybeans, and milo;
- (d) the units are used during "harvest months" as specified by the state.

Prior to passage of the amended federal law, Kansas would have been subject to the withholding of federal highway funds if Kansas would have allowed the longer combination of vehicles. Under this recent change in federal law Kansas will not be subject to federal funds being withheld if the law is changed as proposed.

KDOT worked with U.S. Custom Harvesters, Inc. for passage of the federal amendment and now stands in support of SB 99 to amend our state law.