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**Testimony on SB271
to
The Senate Transportation Committee
By Josh Roe
Kansas Department of Agriculture
March 12, 2015**

Good morning Chairmen Petersen and members of the committee. My name is Josh Roe and I'm an Assistant Secretary for the Kansas Department of Agriculture.

I am here to testify in support of SB 271. This bill will align state and federal regulations in regards to total vehicle length for hauling combines and forage harvesting equipment. Currently, the state of Kansas is seeking to obtain a federal exemption from the length requirement as it applies to combines and forage equipment. This would be similar to the exemption that the state of Nebraska received in 2005. This bill would further align our state regulations to the federal requirements.

An important facet of the agricultural industry in Kansas is the ability to conduct timely harvests. This is only accomplished with the presence of custom harvesting crews that reside in many other states. It is important that these harvesters, which are nearly all small, family-operated businesses, be able to move into and out of Kansas as efficiently as possible. A key driver of efficiency is being able to travel between states such as Kansas and Nebraska without having to breakdown and reconfigure the tractor-trailer rig to meet different length requirements.

Thank you for allowing me to testify, I'll stand for questions at the appropriate time.