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LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY

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Before The

**Senate Transportation Committee
Senator Mike Petersen, Chairman
Tuesday, January 26, 2016**

In Support of Senate Bill No. 99

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE:

I am Tom Whitaker, executive director of the Kansas Motor Carriers Association. I appear here this morning representing our 950 member companies and the Kansas trucking industry in support of Senate Bill No. 99 which extends the length limits for the custom harvesting industry.

Over the past few years, KMCA has supported the custom harvesting industry in their efforts to pass federal legislation to allow a one truck-tractor two trailer combination or one truck-tractor semitrailer combination to have an overall length limit of 81 ½ feet. This they were successful in the efforts and Kansas can now allow for the 81 ½ feet length limit. Adoption of SB 99 removes the "block State" label for the movement of custom harvesting equipment from the southern US border to Canada.

KMCA respectfully requests the Senate Transportation Committee amend SB 99 by changing the effective date to the Kansas Register and by adopting language, which also passed by Congress in the Federal Highway Legislation, that extends the length and overhang limitations for a stinger steered automobile transporter. We have attached to our testimony an amendment prepared by the Revisor's office to address the two amendments with a substitute bill.

Mr. Chairman, we thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee today. KMCA supports SB 99 and asks the Committee to pass the bill, as amended, favorably. I would be pleased to respond to any questions you may have.



AN ACT concerning the uniform act regulating traffic; relating to height and length of vehicles and loads; exceptions to maximums; amending K.S.A. 8-1905 and K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 8-1904 and repealing the existing sections.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 8-1904 is hereby amended to read as follows: 8-1904. (a) No vehicle including any load thereon shall exceed a height of 14 feet, except that a vehicle transporting cylindrically shaped bales of hay as authorized by K.S.A. 8-1902(e), and amendments thereto, may be loaded with such bales secured to a height not exceeding 14½ feet. Should a vehicle so loaded with bales strike any overpass or other obstacle, the operator of the vehicle shall be liable for all damages resulting therefrom. The secretary of transportation may adopt rules and regulations for the movement of such loads of cylindrically shaped bales of hay.

(b) No motor vehicle including the load thereon shall exceed a length of 45 feet extreme overall dimension, excluding the front and rear bumpers, except as provided in subsection (d).

(c) Except as otherwise provided in K.S.A. 8-1914 and 8-1915, and amendments thereto, and subsections (d), (e), (f), (g) and (h), no combination of vehicles coupled together shall exceed a total length of 65 feet.

(d) The length limitations in subsection (b) shall not apply to a truck tractor. No semitrailer which is being operated in combination with a truck tractor shall exceed 59½ feet in length. No semitrailer or trailer which is being operated in a combination consisting of a truck tractor, semitrailer and trailer shall exceed 28½ feet in length.

(e) The limitations in this section governing maximum length of a semitrailer or trailer

shall not apply to vehicles operating in the daytime when transporting poles, pipe, machinery or other objects of a structural nature which cannot readily be dismembered, except that it shall be unlawful to operate any such vehicle or combination of vehicles which exceeds a total length of 85 feet unless a special permit for such operation has been issued by the secretary of transportation or by an agent or designee of the secretary pursuant to K.S.A. 8-1911, and amendments thereto. For the purpose of authorizing the issuance of such special permits at motor carrier inspection stations, the secretary of transportation may contract with the superintendent of the Kansas highway patrol for such purpose, and in such event, the superintendent or any designee of the superintendent may issue such special permit pursuant to the terms and conditions of the contract. The limitations in this section shall not apply to vehicles transporting such objects operated at nighttime by a public utility when required for emergency repair of public service facilities or properties or when operated under special permit as provided in K.S.A. 8-1911, and amendments thereto, but in respect to such night transportation every such vehicle and the load thereon shall be equipped with a sufficient number of clearance lamps on both sides and marker lamps upon the extreme ends of any projecting load to clearly mark the dimensions of such load.

(f) The limitations of this section governing the maximum length of combinations of vehicles shall not apply to a combination of vehicles consisting of a truck tractor towing a house trailer, if such combination of vehicles does not exceed an overall length of 97 feet.

(g) The length limitations of this section shall not apply to stinger-steered automobile or boat transporters or one truck and one trailer vehicle combination, loaded or unloaded, used in transporting a combine, forage cutter or combine header to be engaged in farm custom

harvesting operations, as defined in K.S.A. 8-143j(d), and amendments thereto. A stinger-steered ~~automobile or~~ boat transporter or one truck and one trailer vehicle combination, loaded or unloaded, used in transporting a combine, forage cutter or combine header to be engaged in farm custom harvesting operations, as defined in K.S.A. 8-143j(d), and amendments thereto, shall not exceed an overall length limit of 75 feet, exclusive of front and rear overhang. A stinger-steered automobile transporter shall not exceed an overall length limit of 80 feet, exclusive of front and rear overhang.

(h) The length limitations of this section shall not apply to drive-away saddlemount or drive-away saddlemount with fullmount vehicle transporter combination. A drive-away saddlemount or drive-away saddlemount with fullmount vehicle transporter combination shall not exceed an extreme overall dimension of 97 feet.

(i) The length limitations of this section shall not apply to a one truck-tractor two trailer combination or one truck-tractor semitrailer combination used in transporting equipment utilized by custom harvesters under contract to agricultural producers to harvest commodities, but the length of the property-carrying units, excluding load, shall not exceed 81½ feet.

Sec. 2. K.S.A. 8-1905 is hereby amended to read as follows: 8-1905. (a) The load upon any vehicle operated alone, or the load upon the front vehicle of a combination of vehicles, shall not extend more than three ~~(3)~~ feet beyond the front wheels of such vehicle or the front bumper of such vehicle if it is equipped with a bumper.

(b) Any vehicle or combination of vehicles transporting passenger vehicles or other motor vehicles may carry a load which extends no more than ~~three (3)~~ four feet beyond the front and ~~four (4)~~ six feet beyond the rear of the transporting vehicle or combination of vehicles.

Sec. 3. K.S.A. 8-1905 and K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 8-1904 are hereby repealed.

Sec. 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the
Kansas Register,
~~statute book.~~