



Testimony before the
House Transportation Committee

Matthew Hall, Business Agent
Teamsters Local Union 696

February 1st, 2016

OPPOSE HOUSE BILL 2095

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee:

My name is Matthew Hall and I am a Business Agent at Teamsters Local Union 696, which represents more than 1,000 drivers and other members in Kansas.

Teamsters Local Union 696 opposes HB 2095. We feel that increased weight limits on trucks will lead to increased safety concerns on the road for drivers and to the general public. Additionally we feel that increased weight limits will lead to an erosion of jobs and is a slippery slope issue.

When we increase the weight limits on trucks we decrease the reaction time and make it harder to stop when an emergency should arise. In an accident split seconds can mean a world of difference. This could lead to increased risk to professional drivers that have the increased weight, professional drivers that are sharing the road and to drivers and bystanders on the road. The current Federal commercial vehicle maximum standards on Interstate Highway System are 80,000 pounds. Why do we want to risk our citizens and go far above this?

In addition the more weight that a truck can carry means the fewer trips a truck needs to haul the goods and will mean fewer jobs in our communities. At a time when Kansas needs job growth to help stimulate our economy why are we looking policies that will require less workers and will have a overall negative effect on our economy?

In conclusion we urge you to oppose HB2095 in the interests of safety and in the interest of our economy.