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**Testimony in Support of HB 2095 to
The House Committee on Transportation
By Josh Roe
Kansas Department of Agriculture
February 2, 2017**

Good afternoon Chairmen Proehl and members of the committee. My name is Josh Roe and I'm an Assistant Secretary for the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA).

An important facet of the agricultural industry in Kansas is the ability to move agricultural products to market efficiently, and KDA supports all efforts to improve agricultural producers' transportation efficiency so long as safety and infrastructure are not jeopardized.

Over the past two years I have had the opportunity to speak with hundreds of agricultural producers on opportunities and challenges to growing their businesses, and without exception the issue of a lack of available labor was at the top of the list of factors inhibiting growth. Heavier loads will translate to reduced trips, leading to reduced farm labor requirements, partially offsetting the producer's labor shortage, while reducing fuel costs.

KDA also supports aligning transportation regulations with neighboring states so that our agricultural producers, suppliers and processors compete on a level playing field.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify this afternoon, I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.