



KANSAS LIVESTOCK MARKETING ASSOCIATION

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February 1, 2017

Kansas House Transportation Committee
Representative Richard Proehl, Chair

Chairman Proehl,

I am writing on behalf of the Kansas Livestock Marketing Association (KLMA) in support of HB 2095, to allow for a higher maximum gross vehicle weight for six-axle trucks. The KLMA represents the local livestock auction markets where people buy and sell cattle. In 2016, the 47 livestock auction markets across Kansas sold more than 2.1 million head of cattle, providing income for ranchers and stimulating our rural economies.

The addition of a special permit to allow trucks to carry up to 90,000 pounds on six-axle trucks on non-interstate roads would be of major benefit to the local livestock auctions and the producers we serve.

Kansas livestock markets are at a competitive disadvantage to neighboring states where 90,000 lb. trucks are permitted. Heavier trucks are beneficial by spreading fixed costs across more pounds of cattle. This creates an incentive for buyers to attend livestock markets and buy cattle in markets outside of the state, reducing competition for Kansas products. Rail service is not available for livestock transport, so trucks are our only means of transport.

Additionally, it is important to note that a 2015 Kansas Department of Transportation feasibility study found that the addition of a sixth axle would negate any negative impacts associated with heavier trucks. In fact, with the use of a sixth axle, even with the heavier gross weight, less weight per axle will reduce wear on Kansas roads.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback and hope the committee advances HB 2095. By increasing the maximum load weight to 90,000 lbs. Kansas livestock markets and the producers we serve will benefit from more economic opportunities and a level playing field with surrounding states.

Sincerely,



Larry Martin

Kansas Livestock Marketing Association President