



Since 1894

To: House Committee on Agriculture
Representative Rahjes, Chair

From: Dean Klahr, Director of Stockgrowers Division, Kansas Livestock Association

Re: **SB 89, AN ACT Exempting the transport of agricultural forage commodities from secured load requirements.**

Date: March 16, 2021

The Kansas Livestock Association (KLA), formed in 1894, is a trade association representing over 5,700 members on legislative and regulatory issues. KLA members are involved in many aspects of the livestock industry, including seed stock, cow-calf, and stocker cattle production; cattle feeding; dairy production; swine production; grazing land management; and diversified farming operations.

Thank you, Chairman Rahjes and members of the Committee for the opportunity to present KLA's views on SB 89. KLA appears today as a proponent of SB 89.

KLA believes that no farmer, rancher, or truck driver under contract with an agricultural producer should be guilty of a citation, and any accompanying fine, for not tarping a truck hauling a forage commodity during harvest. Agricultural forage commodities are often high in moisture, and as such, the product forms a cohesive bond that often holds the foliage together and makes it unlikely for the product to blow out of a truck or trailer. Should the wind catch a portion of the forage commodity and blow it out of a truck or trailer, it is a lightweight product that is highly unlikely to have an impact on other motorists. Moreover, trips from the field to storage areas or market are usually frequent, short hauls at low speeds that make tarping or covering loads impractical. Particularly unreasonable is tarping trucks that haul silage, such as the one depicted in the photo attached to my testimony. These trucks are tall, and the entire backend pivots up to open, making traditional roll over tarps unfeasible.

This bill would exclude load securement requirements for trucks hauling agricultural forage commodities from the field of production to market or a place of storage and makes clear that such action is not subject to a citation if the trucks do not contain a cover.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit KLA's views to the Committee. KLA asks the Committee to pass SB 89 favorably for passage.

