



January 29, 2025

To: Senator Petersen and members of the Senate Transportation Committee

From: Gary Reser, Kansas Soybean Association

Re: Proponent Testimony on Senate Bill 17

Chairman Peterson and members of the Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of S.B. 17 on behalf of soybean farmers.

Kansas ranks eleventh nationally for soybean production with 154.7 million bushels produced. The Kansas Department of Agriculture reports that soybeans have a direct economic impact of \$1.9 billion in the Kansas economy and more than \$3 billion when you include indirect and induced impacts.

Animal agriculture is one of the largest consumers of soybeans, as soybean meal is a high-quality feed ingredient that provides essential protein to livestock including Kansas' beef, dairy, pork and poultry industries. Livestock consume over 97% of the soybean meal that comes from the soybeans grown by Kansas' 12,000 soybean farmers.

In 2017, the Kansas Soybean Association worked with other Kansas agricultural groups on the successful passage of H.B. 2095, which increased truck weight limits when hauling grain and other agricultural products.

The passage of H.B. 2095 was supported by research stating that highway safety improved due to additional braking capabilities and decreased stopping distances and allowed six-axle trucks.

The Kansas Legislature has now proposed S.B. 17, to provide relief for small farm and ranch operations from burdensome restrictions, citations and fines. The bill also grants flexibility to farmers and ranchers when moving grain as several factors fluctuate and make it difficult to make precise weight estimates.

Citations often apply to drivers who have no control over the weight of the load as opposed to the truck owner.

S.B. 17 would help alleviate stress from farmers during harvest, an already hectic and stressful time.

The Kansas Soybean Association respectfully requests you vote favorably for the passage of S.B. 17.