

**Proponent Testimony in Support of SB 17:** Excepting haulers of grain and certain other agricultural goods from gross weight limitations for vehicles.

**Senate Committee on Transportation**

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Thank you, Chairman Peck and members of the committee, for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of Senate Bill 17. The Kansas Corn Growers Association (KCGA) represents more than 1,000 members on state and national levels on legislative and regulatory issues and actively works with other organizations to maximize the voice of Kansas corn producers. KCGA stands in support of this bill as the current law is burdensome on small corn farmers, opening them to citations and fines.

Senate Bill 17 amends KSA 8-1909 which includes the gross vehicle weight chart and sets forth the maximum gross weight of vehicles or combination vehicles. The new amendment would except haulers of grain and certain other agricultural goods from certain gross weight limitations. These new exceptions allow farmers hauling grain from the field to their end destination, whether to the elevator, ethanol plant, or feed yard, to exceed current gross weight limitations within 50 miles.

This new language gives farmers flexibility when moving grain, while also alleviating the potential burden of loading a truck too heavy, a common challenge for many farmers. Modern technology allows some farmers to put weight scales on their grain carts, giving them an accurate estimate of the weight that is to be loaded on their trucks. However, many farmers, especially small farmers, cannot afford to include these scales on their operations as they can be expensive, and ultimately do not provide agronomic or economic value, and can thus be seen as a “luxury” item. Farmers not equipped with this technology must guess the weights of the loads on the truck.

Truck weights can fluctuate with size of the load, the weight of the individual bushels of corn, and other factors like moisture content, making precise weight estimates difficult. Farmers frequently need to move marginally overweight loads off the field, pulling them out of compliance with the law. In many areas, we have had KCGA members pulled over and given a citation for being only a couple thousand pounds overweight. Unfortunately, these citations are given to the drivers who have no control over how much weight is loaded on them. Even when the owner of the truck pays, the citation still applies to the driver.



Senate Bill 17 would alleviate this potential burden and relieve the concerns of farmers across the state knowing that they have the flexibility to move their grain off the field. This would be a very well received change to the public law, easing the stress on farmers during a significantly more stressful time period. As such, Kansas Corn supports the passage of Senate Bill 17

**Submitted by Taylor Williamson on behalf of the Kansas Corn Growers Association**

