



Date: January 29, 2025  
To: Chairman Mike Petersen  
From: Russell Plaschka, Kansas Cooperative Council  
**RE: Proponent Oral Testimony on SB 17**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for allowing the Kansas Cooperative Council (Co-op Council) to comment in support of Senate Bill 17.

Formed in 1944, the Co-op Council is a voluntary trade association representing all forms of cooperatively structured business in Kansas. Our purpose is to further the understanding of cooperative principals, methods of doing business, and the impact co-ops have on our state's rural economy. Kansas co-ops have over 575 locations, employ over 5,000 people, and represent over 116,000 members.

Agricultural cooperatives play a critical role in Kansas's economic ecosystem, and Senate Bill 17 directly addresses transportation challenges faced by farmers during peak harvest periods. The proposed weight limitations provide essential operational flexibility, allowing more efficient movement of grain and seasonally harvested products. By enabling slightly heavier loads, the bill will reduce transportation costs, minimize the number of truck trips required, and ultimately support the productivity of Kansas's agricultural sector.

The 50-mile transportation radius and weight increase of 10-12.5% represent a pragmatic approach to addressing real-world logistical constraints. This measured approach balances the needs of agricultural producers with safety considerations, ensuring that cooperatives can more effectively manage harvest demands.

The Kansas Cooperative Council respectfully asks to you to support the agricultural productivity and transportation efficiency policies found in SB 17.