



Kansas Grain and Feed Association  
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January 29, 2025

To: Senate Committee on Transportation  
From: Randy Stookey, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs and General Counsel  
Re: **Proponent Testimony on Senate Bill 17, excepting haulers of grain and certain other agricultural goods from gross weight limitations for vehicles.**

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Chairman Petersen and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 17. This testimony is submitted on behalf of the Kansas Grain and Feed Association (KGFA).

KGFA is the state association of the grain receiving, storage, processing and shipping industry in Kansas. KGFA's membership includes over 950 Kansas business locations and represents 99% of the commercially licensed grain storage in the state.

Located across our state, our member grain elevators work to receive and store hundreds of millions of bushels of grain grown by Kansas farmers each year. Every bushel of grain grown in the state must initially be transported from the field by truck.

During the harvest season, farmers work tirelessly to harvest and deliver grains to grain elevators or on-farm storage. Farmers must battle against short time windows due to weather, crop conditions, and a shortage of available truck drivers.

In recognition of the difficulties faced by farmers during harvest, Senate Bill 17 would provide for a limited, harvest-time truck weight waiver for delivering grain from field to storage.

The bill would grant a limited weight waiver for trucks transporting seasonally harvested products, from the field to storage or market, up to 50 miles, during harvest. The waiver would allow up to 10% above the normal maximum weight for full size grain trucks, or 12.5% greater than for trucks with a single rear axle. However, in no instance could the maximum gross weight exceed 90,000 pounds, and the waiver could not be used on interstate highways.

Kansas has authorized truck weight waivers during emergent situations many times, and similar seasonal weight waivers are recognized by our neighboring states:

- **Iowa:** Iowa has for many years issued a harvest-time truck weight [proclamation](#) allowing trucks to haul up to 90,000 pounds of grain on non-interstates roads.
- **Nebraska:** allows for a seasonal truck weight wavier exemption of 15% over the maximum allowed weight when transporting grain from the field to storage or market, within 70 miles.
- **Wisconsin:** allows a seasonal harvest exemption of 15% over the maximum weight from August 1 to December 31 for certain ag commodities transported from the field to storage or initial market. The weight waiver cannot be used on interstate highways.

The provisions in Senate Bill 17 represent good public policy. The bill is reasonable as to time, distance, and scope, and it will help farmers more efficiently harvest and transport grain during the short harvest window.

For the reasons stated, we stand in strong support of the bill. If any technical amendments are deemed necessary, we will work with state regulators on that language.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 17. We respectfully request that the committee pass the bill out favorably.