

**To: Senate Transportation Committee, Senator Mike Petersen, Chairperson**

**From: John Donley, Kansas Farm Bureau**

**Date: February 5, 2020**

**Re: SB 267- classifying violation of the secured loads statute as a traffic infraction**

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Chairman Petersen and Members of the Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to present written testimony on behalf of the Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB) in support of SB 267. KFB is the state's largest general farm organization representing more than 30,000 farm and ranch families through our 105 county Farm Bureau Associations.

Kansas farmers and ranchers harvest opportunities are weather dependent and the ability to move agricultural production efficiently at the optimal time is key to their business success. Generally, Kansas farmers and ranchers ensure that their loads are secured when going to market. However, there are exceptions when time is of the essence in order to harvest their crops effectively and economically. This bill attempts to remedy situations where a person may be hauling an unsecured load; however, the bill does not make the activity legal; it simply makes it a lower level violation.

Simply put, SB 267 lessens the penalties for transporting an unsecured load on Kansas roadways while keeping the activity a violation of traffic laws. KFB feels that this is an adequate solution to a select issue that some Kansas farmers and ranchers face. We ask for your support of SB 267 through the legislative process.

Thank you for your time and attention to this issue.