

Before the Senate Transportation Committee

Wednesday January 29, 2025
Neutral Written Testimony

Submitted by Mike Hoeme, Director of Transportation
On behalf of the Staff of the Kansas Corporation Commission

Chairman Petersen, Vice Chair Kloos, Ranking Minority Member Corson, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide Neutral Written Testimony on behalf of the staff of the Kansas Corporation Commission (Commission).

The Transportation Division of the Kansas Corporation Commission (Commission) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in neutral/opposition of Senate Bill 17, and we respectfully request the Committee consider our agency's concerns. As drafted, Senate Bill 17 would allow farmers and commercial transporters in a vehicle or combination of vehicles exclusively carrying grain or other seasonally harvested products during the normal harvest season which is year around in Kansas, from the field where such grain or products are harvested to storage, market or stockpile or from stockpile to market or factory up to 50 miles.

The Transportation Division believes that the broad nature of this bill would allow heavy loads on State roads even when scales are available. We suggest the language be limited to the first move to benefit the agriculture industry, such as:

“From the field where such grain or products are harvested to farm or commercial storage, market or stockpile up to 50 miles”.

We believe loads from the elevator stockpiles to market or factory fall beyond the scope of this producer exception because the load can be precisely weighed at that point.

We believe consideration of this suggestion would aide in making the proposed bill more precise and prevent unintended consequences that would have to be revisited in future legislative sessions.