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To: House Transportation Committee, Chairman Rich Proehl

From: Allie Devine on behalf of the US Custom Harvesters Inc.

Date: March 9, 2016

Re: Senate Substitute for SB 99

Good Morning Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. My name is Allie Devine, and I am a contract lobbyist representing the US Custom Harvesters Inc.

USCHI is a trade association with nearly 400 members and almost 100 of those are Kansas businesses. The national office is located in Kansas. As you would guess, USCHI members travel throughout the US harvesting crops. USCHI members travel on an average of 130 days for grain harvesting and 100 days for forage harvesters. USCHI President Taff Hughes, Ellinwood, Kansas sends his regards and regrets that he is not able to attend today.

Over the past 10 years, USCHI has sought to achieve an exemption for Kansas from federal and state length limits similar to the exemption Nebraska has enjoyed. To gain the exemption, both federal and state law must be amended. Passage of a federal exemption was the first step.

We are pleased that the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016 passed by the Congress before Christmas included the necessary language to allow Kansas to make adjustments for truck lengths for custom harvesters moving equipment within Kansas. Congressman Yoder and Senator Moran were our champions in getting the necessary language into the appropriations bill. The letters of support from the Kansas legislature were instrumental to illustrate the state's support of this critical industry. The federal amendments were supported by the Kansas Department of Transportation, Kansas Department of Agriculture, Kansas Motor Carriers Association and many agricultural organizations. The Kansas Highway Patrol also consulted on the language. Thank you all for the help.

Now that the federal bill has passed, we are seeking passage of Senate Substitute for SB 99 to amend Kansas law. The proposed amendment would allow one truck-tractor, two trailer combination or one truck-tractor two semitrailer combination used in transporting equipment utilized by custom harvesters under contract to agricultural producers to harvest commodities to exceed the current length restrictions, but the length of the property-carrying units, excluding the load, may not exceed 81½ feet. The Senate elected to pass a substitute bill, on a vote of 39-0, for ease of reading as there were substantive and technical amendments. We are supportive of all the changes made.

This exemption, if adopted, will save custom harvesters time and money in the movement of equipment. We ask that Senate Substitute for SB 99 be passed as soon as possible, and the law effective upon publication so it will be helpful this harvest season.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I will be happy to answer questions.