



January 22, 2015

Chairman Petersen, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Kansas Building Industry Association (KBIA) in support of Senate Bill 21. KBIA is an affiliate of the National Association of Home Builders and with more than 2,000 members across the state. Senate Bill 21, when combined with the changes enacted during the 2014 legislative session, will provide clarity and allow those engaged in residential and light construction segments of the industry to operate in a safe and efficient manner.

Following the 2014 Kansas Legislative Session, the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) convened a task force consisting of all the interested parties to last year's legislation. The primary question to be answered was, "could Kansas grant an exemption for private motor carriers of this class (10,001-26,000 pounds) without granting the same exemption to for-hire carriers?" There was concern last year that treating the two entities differently could endanger federal funding. Ultimately the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) put that concern to rest, writing affirmatively that a state may exempt commercial motor vehicles under existing authority and that Kansas "is not required to do so uniformly or comprehensively."

At our final task force meeting all parties agreed to add coupling devices to the requirements of medium class private carriers (in addition to the load securement and periodic inspection added in 2014) and to eliminate the June 30, 2015 sunset current contained within this statute.

I want to once again thank the KCC, Kansas Highway Patrol, Department of Revenue, and all the stakeholders that participated in the task force during the interim. I believe the result of those meetings, included within SB 21, is a well thought out and pragmatic approach to the issues we faced during the past year.

Thank your for your consideration and support on this issue.

Sincerely,

Sean Miller
Kansas Building Industry Association