



Kansas Motor Carriers Association

Trucking Solutions Since 1936

LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY

by the

Kansas Motor Carriers Association

**Presented to the Senate Transportation Committee
Senator Dwayne Umbarger, Chairman
Thursday, January 19, 2012**

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Executive Director

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE:

I am Tom Whitaker, executive director of the Kansas Motor Carriers Association. I appear before you this afternoon representing our 1,100 member firms and the Kansas trucking industry in support of elimination of the federal freeze on more productive trucks.

During the 2010 Session of the Kansas Legislature the House of Representatives adopted House Resolution No. 6017 (see attached) urging the United States Congress to repeal Public Law 23 U.S.C. 127(d) concerning the federal freeze on more productive trucks and allowing the State of Kansas to determine the appropriate vehicle size and weight limits necessary for the economic growth and Kansas and the central United States. Currently, any attempt to circumvent the federal freeze could result in the loss of federal highway funds.

The effects of the federal freeze on more productive trucks is evident by the request of the custom harvesting industry's for additional length limits to move ever evolving harvesting equipment and the inability of the State of Kansas to accommodate the industry's request for support of our State's agricultural economy.

The federal freeze has been in effect for almost 20 years. Should Congress repeal the federal freeze on more productive trucks, both the Kansas House of Representative and the Kansas Senate must adopt any change in truck size and weight limits and such changes must be approved by the Governor. This is an issue of State's rights.

The Kansas Motor Carriers Association supported HR 6017 and we encourage the Senate Transportation Committee to adopt a similar resolution. We thank you for the opportunity to appear before you this afternoon and would be pleased to respond to any questions you may have.