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To: House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources
Representative Sharon Schwartz, Chair

From: Mike Beam, Kansas Livestock Association

Re: **Testimony in support of House Bill No. 2202, a bill suspending permitting requirements for transporting oversize loads of hay when the governor makes a drought declaration.**

Date: February 11, 2013

The Kansas Livestock Association (KLA), formed in 1894, is a trade association representing over 5,500 members on legislative and regulatory issues. KLA members are involved in many aspects of the livestock industry, including seedstock, cow-calf and stocker production, cattle feeding, dairy production, grazing land management and diversified farming operations.

Madam Chair and committee members, the Kansas Livestock Association supports HB 2202 and we appreciate the Kansas Department of Agriculture's sponsorship of this legislation. I also want to thank you for scheduling a hearing on this bill. First, I want to mention there is strong merit for a statutory exception for allowing oversize loads (in excess of 8 ½ feet in width) of hay in Kansas. You probably know the dominant type of hay bales produced in the midwestern states are what are commonly called "large round" bales (cylindrically shaped) that often range from 5 to 6 feet in diameter.

Hay producers and hay haulers need to haul these bales in loads of two bales wide to make the most efficient and safe a load as possible. The provisions of KSA 8-1902, 8-1904, and 8-1911 provide requirements for when these oversize loads may travel, the signage that is necessary, and the requirement for a permit when traveling on the national network of highways.

In recent years, the governor (with prompting by the Kansas Department of Agriculture) has issued executive orders that void the requirement for permits. I might add, the governor and his administration have been responsive to this need with a desire to knock down regulatory barriers when it's critical that hay move in commerce in response to emergency drought situations.

This bill is an attempt to streamline this process. We appreciate the Kansas Department of Agriculture's suggestion that HB 2202 be considered and offer our support for passage of this legislation.

Thank you.

House Agriculture & Natural
Resources Committee

Date 2-11-2013

Attachment # 3