



March 14, 2017

RE: Written Proponent Testimony for HB 2095, Increasing Maximum Gross Vehicle Weights

Senate Transportation Committee,

It would be Team Marketing Alliance, Moundridge, Kansas statement to support the increase of maximum gross vehicle weights in Kansas. Our support is to increase from 85,500 pounds on five axles to 90,000 pounds on six axles on non-interstate roads.

One primary concern is the competitive disadvantage Kansas companies are at versus neighboring states. Most surrounding states have higher capacities than Kansas allowing truckers preference to haul grain in those states. Those minimum gross weights include:

Iowa	90000#	6 axles
Nebraska	90000#	6 axles
Missouri	92000#	5 axles
Oklahoma	90000#	6 axles

TMA runs 70 country elevators with only five locations which load out on the rail on any regular basis. The limited rail facilities mean a significant percent of the grain at our locations must be shipped out by truck. Point being this change has very little effect on railroads but helps move the grain more efficiently to the rail service.

The second reason for our support is the difficulty grain elevators experience when trying to find enough qualified drivers in our market today. The continued production of more grain by Kansas farmers has resulted in the need to move more grain in a shorter time frame. In addition, studies show that the change will provide better wear and tear on the roads with the 6th axle.

Sincerely,

Ted Schultz
Chief Operating Officer
Team Marketing Alliance