

International  
of Electrical



Brotherhood  
Workers

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Please accept my testimony in opposition to HB 2095.

My name is John Garretson II, Business Manager Financial Secretary of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local Union 304, we represent approximately 2500 workers in the State of Kansas including those classifications that build and maintain the electrical grid. This requires them to gain and maintain a Commercial Driver's License to operate the vehicles associated with line construction. While they are not traditional Over the Road Truck drivers they are exposed to, and must adhere to all the rules that a Commercial Driver has and that includes associated weight limits.

This bill, by raising the weight limits for loads would have an adverse effect on the safety for the Lineman, Operators and Apprentices driving these potentially larger weighted vehicles. Let alone the exposure of the other drivers on the roads shared by these drivers. While Line Trucks already have a high center of gravity any increase in weight loads would only increase the risk of rollovers, in addition to the increased time and distance necessary to stop these vehicles.

The other concern with increasing the weight limits on commercial vehicles would be the effect on the aging infrastructure in the State, including bridges and overpasses, let only the necessary changes in signage and the engineering studies to accommodate the weight increases. We believe the tax exposure to pay for these issues in this economy would be an unnecessary exposure to the Kansas taxpayers.

In summary, with the overall impact on the commercial drivers along with exposure to all drivers in the State and the economic exposure to the tax payers we ask the you oppose this bill.

Thank you,

John L. Garretson II  
Business Manager/Financial Secretary  
IBEW Local Union 304