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To: Senate Committee on Transportation  
Sen. Mike Peterson, Chair

From: Art Wagner, Vice President Cattle Procurement, National Beef Packing Co., LLC  
Stan Linville, CEO, U.S. Premium Beef, LLC

Re: **Support for HB 2095 as amended**

Date: March 14, 2017

Members of the Committee,

U.S. Premium Beef, National Beef, and National Carriers urge your support for HB 2095, as amended, which passed the House of Representatives with a vote of 77-48. HB 2095 allows six-axle trucks (semi with a triple-axle trailer) to carry up to 90,000 lbs. on non-interstate roads, an increase from the current maximum gross vehicle weight of 85,500 lbs.

In an historically narrow margin industry, HB 2095 is a net gain in dollars, time and efficiencies for producers and processors. Just in livestock hauling alone, this additional weight has the potential to reduce the number of livestock trucks entering and leaving each of our Liberal and Dodge City processing facilities by as many as 40 to 50 loads per week or nearly 5,000 per year combined. This does not consider where the additional weight provides similar opportunities in the movement of beef and beef by-products. Given the challenge to continuously find qualified drivers as well as reduce the traffic count of livestock and related trucks the opportunity to improve highway safety is a winner for all.

Ancillary gains associated with HB 2095 and its reduced traffic count include: reduced wait time at facilities and less shrink of livestock weight (increased revenue for livestock producers), less stress on livestock improving animal welfare and beef quality, and allowing improved utilization of plant personnel.

While this modest 4,500-pound increase per truck seems small, in the aggregate this bill has real positive impacts in dollars and efficiencies for our producers and businesses. Thank you for your consideration and we urge you to pass HB 2095, as amended.



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#### About U.S. Premium Beef:

Formed in 1996, U.S. Premium Beef LLC (USPB) is a marketing company which has an ownership interest in National Beef Packing Company, LLC, one of the nation's largest beef processors. By marketing through USPB, beef producers have an opportunity to retain ownership of the beef they produce from the ranch to retail. The company is owned by beef producers who produce high quality cattle that will go into value-added beef products, which are designed to meet consumers' demands. More information about U.S. Premium Beef is available at [www.uspremiumbeef.com](http://www.uspremiumbeef.com)

#### About National Beef Packing Co. LLC

National Beef Packing Company, LLC, based in Kansas City, Missouri has operations in Liberal, Dodge City, and Kansas City, Kansas; Hummel's Wharf, Pennsylvania; Moultrie, Georgia; and St. Joseph, Missouri. National Beef, with approximately 8,000 employees, processes and markets fresh beef, case-ready beef, beef by-products and wet-blue leather for domestic and international markets. In fiscal year 2016, National Beef generated sales of over \$7 billion. More information about National Beef is available at [www.nationalbeef.com](http://www.nationalbeef.com)

#### About National Carriers, Inc.

National Carriers Inc. is a diversified motor carrier founded in 1968 in Liberal KS. National Carriers services include: over the road and dedicated refrigerated trucking, livestock transportation, logistics, wash and spot operations, and equipment leasing. National Carriers also has offices in Irving TX, Springdale, AR, Dodge City KS and Denison IA. More information about National Carriers is available at [www.nationalcarriers.com](http://www.nationalcarriers.com).