



OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU

2501 N. STILES • OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73105-3126 • 405-523-2300

Via Facsimile 202-228-0380

March 17, 2009

The Honorable Jim Inhofe
United States Senate
453 Russell Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Inhofe:

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau (OFB) commends you for introducing legislation to relieve American farmers and ranchers from undue burdens and regulations when they transport their crops or livestock across state lines.

Farmers and ranchers strive to ensure their motor vehicles are in a safe and proper operating condition and that they are used in a careful and responsible manner. OFB believes that farmers hauling their own products in their own vehicles, many in close proximity to their property, should not be subject to the same regulations intended to govern full-time commercial truck drivers.

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) defines a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) as a vehicle having a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) or gross combination weight rating (GCWR) of 10,001 pounds or more. Under those same regulations, a state may exempt CMVs up to 26,001 pounds if they are engaged solely in intrastate commerce. Thirty-two states take advantage of this exemption.

Under current regulation, crossing state lines changes the classification from intrastate carrier to interstate carrier, triggering commercial requirements – even if the truck has traveled only a short distance and both states recognize the 26,001 pound exemption. Your bill will allow farmers and ranchers to drive between those states without triggering the federal CMV definition of 10,001 pounds for interstate commerce.

Thank you for authoring this legislation. It is of high importance to the producers of our food and fiber.

Sincerely,

Mike Spradling
President