

**House Committee on Appropriations**

**Testimony on House Bill 2573**

**Monday, February 22, 2016**

**Eric K. Rucker**

**Assistant Secretary of State**

**Chairman, Information Network of Kansas Board of Directors**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2573. This bill would require the Director of Legislative Administrative Services to administer and supervise the live streaming of legislative proceedings in cooperation with the Information Network of Kansas.

I am testifying today in my role as the chair of the board of directors of the Information Network of Kansas, or “INK”. The Secretary of State has been an ex-officio member of the board since its inception. And, throughout that time, INK has been a strong advocate for government transparency as an outgrowth of their statutory mission to “explore technological ways and means of improving citizen and business access to public information.” INK have also repeatedly partnered with the legislature on projects to increase public access to government and the legislative process, from INK’s longstanding role in delivering audio of legislative proceedings to the public, to funding and support for the legislature’s first paperless committees in 2003, to development of the initial website for the 2007 Taxpayer Transparency Act legislation, to investments in hardware and software to support of public access to KLISS in 2010.

This is a track record we wish to continue through support of the legislature’s initiative to expand live streaming of legislative proceedings and we welcome the opportunity to collaborate.