Kansas County Treasurers Association

Linda D. Coon, Wabaunsee County, President

February 16, 2016

RE: HB 2605

Honorable Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I thank you for allowing me to submit testimony to outline some of our reasons for not supporting HB 2605, I represent the Kansas County Treasurers Association, as President, and I am the Wabaunsee County Treasurer.

While the Kansas County Treasurers Association is supportive of efforts of the Kansas Turnpike Authority in their attempt to streamline services to the users of their toll roads, we do not feel that we would be best serving the residents of our counties by refusing to register vehicles due to nonpayment of tolls. Some of our concerns are as follows:

1. Many county treasurers are experiencing strained budgets and lack of adequate numbers of employees. We will be spending more time on phones and at our front counters while attempting to assist those with delinquent tolls.
2. This could cause congestion in our offices for customers who are in good standing. Many of our renewal customers come into our offices on the last day of the month and, are already having to wait in line to be assisted.
3. It has been our experience that electronic toll road billings have not worked well in other states. Kansas has many duplicate tag numbers between registration types (Antique, Commercial, Veteran, etc.). We get many calls and visits from our residents who have been erroneously billed by those states and, we spend a great deal of time to get these billings straightened out for those residents.
4. Kansas county treasurers are statutorily required to collect registration fees and property taxes from vehicle owners in the State of Kansas. Many taxing entities, including the State of Kansas, are dependent on our collection of those fees and taxes. Would we not want that to be our focus rather than collecting delinquent fees for another agency?

These are just a few of the immediate problems that are anticipated. It is our hope that KTA would visit other options to collect delinquent tolls that would not result in inconveniencing such a large number of motor vehicle registrants in the State of Kansas. I thank you for your consideration and ask that you NOT approve HB 2605.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda D. Coon
Kansas County Treasurer's Association President
Wabaunsee County Treasurer