

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

Senate Bill 335

Testimony of Thomas Franzen, CTP, CPFO
Johnson County Treasurer & Finance Director

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of Johnson County and the Kansas County Treasurers Association as a member of the Legislative Committee on SB 335.

Since 2012 Kansas County Treasurers vehicle operations continue to go underfunded. Costs have increased over time due to inflation and workload continues to be pushed from the Department of Revenue to County Treasurers. As you consider SB 335 I want you to also consider increasing registration fees for County Treasurers operations so that we can continue to provide vehicle services to Kansans.

The current business model for County Treasurers is unsustainable with fee schedules established that fail to account for increasing costs and duties. In other words, the very entities you count on to collect and remit registration fees, are operating in an underfunded and understaffed environment.

Additional workload is a significant factor driving a budgetary gap for motor vehicle operations. This gap continues to widen as work continues to be pushed down from the Department of Revenue to Counties. In Johnson County, we are having to subsidize our motor vehicle operation with ad valorem tax support from the general fund.

In summary, County Treasurers are looking for assistance for today and into the future. Kansas County Treasurers are requesting an increase in annual license registration fees on passenger vehicles, to support our vehicle operations. Thank you for your consideration.