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Sam Brownback, Governor

March 15, 2016

RE: Proponent of HB 2605

Dear Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Transportation Committee:

I am Mike King, Secretary of the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) and Director of the Kansas Turnpike Authority (KTA) here today to testify in support of HB 2605.

As we know at both KDOT and KTA that travelers in Kansas are expecting new and more modern systems. We see a lot of innovation in the transportation world and we are excited about the future.

HB 2605 is a bill that is aimed at responding to traveler feedback that tells us it is time for us to innovate in Kansas and get rid of the gates at the toll plazas.

We have worked hard to provide our Kansas travelers with new interoperability options in Oklahoma, with Texas by 2017, and hopefully soon in Colorado and beyond. We are excited about the new options for our commercial carriers to use pre-pass and bestpass in Kansas and the rest of the country. But all of these innovations mean more traffic in the electronic lanes.

Safety and efficiency is important when it relates to transportation in Kansas and HB 2605 allows safer and more efficient travel. The bill before the committee today is an important component to allowing innovation in Kansas transportation services as we move to the future.

With that I thank the committee for allowing me to appear before you today in support of HB 2605 and I would be happy to stand for questions.

Thank you.

Mike King  
Kansas Secretary of Transportation  
KDOT