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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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SHANNON FRANCIS  
125TH DISTRICT

Testimony HB 2004  
Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxes

Chair Tyson and members of the committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify on HB 2004. This bill would authorize the Board of County Commissioners of Seward County to put on the ballot for the voters of the county a question of imposing a countywide sales tax at a rate of 0.5 percent for the purpose of financing road and bridge construction projects. The tax would expire ten years from the date first collected and could be extended for additional ten-year periods upon additional elections.

City and Counties receive a portion of their funding for roads and bridges from the Special State City-County Highway Fund. This fund receives 1/3 of the state motor fuels tax. The receipts for the state motor fuels tax have been stagnant over the last 20 years. Even though more miles are traveled in Kansas now versus 2003 receipts have remained flat because of the increased efficiency of traditional internal combustion engines and the new EV's. Inflation over the last 20 years has also increased the cost of maintaining our roads and bridges. These factors have forced an increased reliance on property tax to maintain roads and bridges and respond to our growing ethanol and dairy industries in Southwest Kansas.

This bill will allow the residents of my county to decide whether they want to use sales tax to help fund our roads and bridges.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shannon Francis". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Representative Shannon Francis