

**John E. Barker**  
**70<sup>th</sup> District**  
**Kansas House of Representatives**

Chairman Proehl and members of the Transportation Committee, I appear today as a proponent for House Bill 2176, which permits the issuing of a distinctive license plate honoring one of Kansas' most favorite sons – President Dwight David Eisenhower.

As many of the members know, Eisenhower grew up in the city of Abilene, Kansas, graduating from Abilene High School and later, the United States Military Academy. He went on to become the Supreme Allied Commander in the European theater of operations during World War II, commanding the largest Army and orchestrating the landing at Normandy on D-Day.

He later served as president at Columbia University before being elected the 34<sup>th</sup> President of the United States. As President, he created the Interstate highway system, and was one of the few Presidents, and in fact, the last President to have a balanced budget.

The Eisenhower Foundation (a 501(c)3) is an organization that works with the United States Presidential Library Commission to educate the public about the legacy of the Eisenhower Administration. This distinctive license plate would assist them in this endeavor.

In a true sense of Eisenhower, who had the ability to work with both political parties, this bill is being co-sponsored by both House Republicans and Democrats. So I would ask that this committee favorably pass this bill out of committee and place it on the consent calendar. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

John E. Barker  
70<sup>th</sup> District  
Kansas House of Representatives