



Kansas Cable Telecommunications Association

Testimony In Support of SB225

John J. Federico: President – Kansas Cable Telecommunications Assn.

Senate Utilities Committee

March 11, 2013

Chairman Apple:

My name is John Federico and I serve as the President of the Kansas Cable Telecommunications Association (KCTA). Our members provide state of the art telecommunication services to your constituents in both urban and rural communities in all four corners of the state.

As many of you may remember, as the largest provider of broadband services in the state, the cable industry took the lead the last couple of years asking the legislature to take a closer look at the KanEd Program. This was a Program that was receiving \$10M annually of taxpayer support and we felt strongly they had strayed from their original mission and that perhaps the entire Program might require reconsideration given the current state of telecommunication offerings and competition in Kansas.

We believe that this *review process*, unfairly painful at times, resulted in responsible legislation that reduced the overall amount of taxpayer subsidies and narrowed the focus of the KanEd Program to distance learning and telemedicine rather than a general state-sponsored broadband subsidy program. The cable industry supported the legislation passed by the legislature and at the end of the day it was a bill that was fair to the provider industry and beneficial to the Kansas taxpayer.

The bill you are considering today is legislation that supports the intention and effort of the Legislature. SB225 merely authorizes that the board may charge and collect user fees for KanEd services. This comports with the desire of the 2011 legislature without “tying the hands” of the board to a set fee. The KCTA lends its unqualified support to this legislation.

In closing, I would like to again compliment the legislature for their careful and thorough review of the KanEd Program and ultimately for the legislation that was passed. I would also like to thank Dr. Tompkins and the KanEd Advisory Board for their efforts and willingness to enact the changes necessary to make KanEd a better program.

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Attachment 2-1