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January 5, 2015

Honorable Willie Dove
Kansas House of Representatives
Willie.dove@house.ks.gov

RE: HB 2007

Dear Representative Dove,

We appreciate your leadership in sponsoring HB 2007 to allow local law enforcement officials to respond to lawful requests for aid during critical incidents in neighboring jurisdictions across the Missouri-Kansas state line as necessary and upon request.

The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) Board of Directors (representing the nine county area of Johnson, Leavenworth, Wyandotte and Miami counties in Kansas and Clay, Platte, Cass, Jackson and Ray counties in Missouri) and its Regional Homeland Security Coordinating Committee support this legislation and offer our assistance to you in answering questions, providing additional information or being available to participate in hearings on the bill.

Missouri's SB852 was passed in the 2014 session and enables local law enforcement personnel to cross the state line when necessary and upon request from communities experiencing critical incidents. Similar legislation is needed in Kansas to allow local law enforcement agencies to cross the state line in the Kansas City region for mutual aid upon request.

Over the past decade, local public safety agencies have worked together with fire service, public health, emergency medical services, emergency management and other disciplines through the regional homeland security committee to create a strong system of emergency preparedness and response capabilities. These capabilities depend upon cooperation among local agencies in supporting response to events requiring specialized personnel and equipment and to large-scale events requiring personnel from multiple agencies to support an incident.

The state line poses a barrier to our local law enforcement agencies' ability to respond effectively, particularly during large scale events requiring specialized equipment and skills and when time is essential. Legislation is needed to enable local law enforcement personnel to cross the state line when necessary and upon request to ensure our community's safety and security. We appreciate your leadership in taking action in support of legislation to allow for needed mutual aid among local public safety agencies in the nine county Kansas City region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kirk Davis".

Kirk Davis, Co-Chair
Regional Homeland Security Coordinating Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hannes Zacharias".

Hannes Zacharias, Co-Chair
Regional Homeland Security Coordinating
Committee

cc: Chief Larry Larimore, Shawnee, Kansas
Chief Tom Dailey, Independence, Missouri

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