

To: House Federal and State Affairs Committee

From: Eric B. Smith, Legal Counsel

Date: February 4, 2016

RE: Support for HB 2549

I want to thank the Chair and Committee members for allowing the League of Kansas Municipalities to testify in support of HB 2549.

As many members of the Committee may remember, HB 2549 is very similar to a bill last session that was limited to certain counties in the Kansas City metro area, and was intended to aid law enforcement in those areas to more efficiently cooperate with law enforcement agencies in the Kansas City, Missouri metro area.

HB 2549 goes beyond last sessions' bill and would aid law enforcement agencies across the state to efficiently work with neighboring agencies even if those agencies are located across state lines. The League supports HB 2549, as an example of cooperation between local governments, wherever they are located, finding ways to provide police protection to their citizens in an efficient and cost effective manner. HB 2549 will allow law enforcement departments in the state of Kansas to share equipment and personnel in times of critical incidents.

The League of Kansas Municipalities respectfully requests that the Committee pass out HB 2549 favorable for passage.