



TESTIMONY

Concerning House Bill 2255

Presented by Darryl C. Lutz, P.E., Butler County Engineer & Legislative Committee Chairman of the
Kansas County Highway Association

February 17, 2015

Mr. Chairman and Members of the House Transportation Committee:

I am Darryl Lutz, Butler County Director of Public Works/County Engineer and Legislative Committee Chairman of the Kansas County Highway Association (KCHA). The KCHA is an affiliate association of the Kansas Association of Counties and has membership from County Public Works and Highway Departments from over 100 Kansas Counties. I appreciate the opportunity today to present remarks on behalf of the KCHA. The KCHA is opposed to HB 2255.

HB 2255 as proposed amends current legislation that provides a financing mechanism to local units of government for transportation related projects. This program has been well utilized and has been an effective tool available to cities and counties for financing projects as an alternative to each entity having to go out on their own to acquire financing. Of particular concern is the fact that this bill came about seemingly spontaneously without knowledge or input from cities and Counties and without notice or discussion from KDOT.

The current program in place and support by existing legislation has been a very popular tool based upon the gross information provided to the legislature by the Bureau of Fiscal Services. Notwithstanding the financial challenges that the state is facing and working to resolve, the loan program is a necessary tool for many entities that just don't have the resources to provide their own local bond financing. The program when properly funded has allowed many projects to move forward in a timely manner. The KCHA prefers and would recommend that the statutory provision remain in place and that funding of the program be left as a policy decision. The concern is that if the financing tool is removed in statute, the likelihood of the tool ever being restored is much less likely.

In closing, the KCHA recommends that HB 2255 not be passed out favorably at this time. The Counties and the cities should have an opportunity to discuss the bill with KDOT to possibly develop an alternative proposal.

I respectfully submit these comments and will gladly stand for questions.

Darryl C. Lutz, P.E., Butler County Director of Public Works/County Engineer
Legislative Committee Chair, KCHA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darryl C. Lutz", is located to the right of the typed name.