



**Shawnee County
Office of County Treasurer**

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LARRY MAH
COUNTY TREASURER

House Committee on Transportation

Chairman Proehl

HB 2605

February 11, 2016

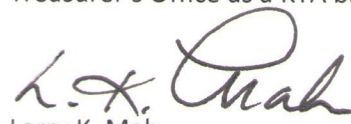
This testimony opposes HB 2605. I strongly oppose the inclusion of the County Treasurer's Office in the Kansas Turnpike Authority's bill collection processes.

As proposed, the bill would prevent the Treasurer from collecting vehicle property taxes until any amounts owed the KTA are paid. This prevents the County Treasurer from completing their statutory duty before the collection of KTA funds. While this may be beneficial for the KTA, it does harm to the timely collection of property taxes. It effectively gives the KTA first claim to funds before property taxes can be collected. In most cases, the amount of taxes being refused will exceed the amount being collected by the KTA.

Using the Treasurer's office as the last resort "bill collector" for the KTA, will also present major operational concerns. These include, diverting clerical and managerial resources to deal with the resolution of the KTA dispute. These are resources that are needed to keep waiting times to a minimum. Treasurer's offices throughout the state already struggle with long wait times.

Using the turnpike and refusing to pay the tolls is theft and should be a law enforcement issue. Refusing to process motor vehicle transactions until the customer settles the dispute with the KTA is inherently, confrontational. HB 2605 sets the stage for this confrontation to play out in the uncontrolled environment of the Treasurer's office with the potential of large numbers of innocent taxpayers present. Intentionally staging these confrontations in the presence of innocent by-standers places other taxpayers and office staff in harm's way.

I respectfully ask the Committee reject HB2605 or remove any provision that proposes using the Treasurer's Office as a KTA bill collector.


Larry K. Mah

Shawnee County Treasurer