



**Written only Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 2573
Senate Ways and Means Committee
March 17, 2016**

Good Morning Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. I'm Kent Cornish, President of the Kansas Association of Broadcasters, a trade association representing the nearly 275 radio and television stations in Kansas.

This is a citizenry bill – not specifically for broadcasters. But as the conduit to every community across Kansas, it's our job to provide to our listeners and viewers as much important information as we can. Some of you may be regularly featured on our stations through interviews or legislative programs.

Given the impact that decisions in the Statehouse have on every Kansan, they deserve to hear more about the process and information used to make the laws they obey. This bill would not only help the broadcasters cover more legislative news, but other media as well. Stations don't have the resources to send people to the capitol on an ongoing basis and must rely on other sources to provide updates. And with that, the citizens lose out.

However, by streaming these committee hearings, newsrooms throughout the state will get the facts and full scope of the committee's discussion. But beyond the media, the voters who elected you have a better opportunity to listen to the information first hand.

Democracy doesn't work without an informed citizenry. You have a wonderful opportunity to keep the legislature open and transparent with passage of HB 2573.

Thank you for your time and I'd be pleased to answer questions at the appropriate time.

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