

To: Chairman Petersen and Senate Transportation Committee Members

From: Dave Lindstrom, Johnson County resident and KTA Board Member

RE: Support of HB 2605

March 15, 2016

Dear Chairman Petersen and Members of the Senate Transportation Committee,

My name is Dave Lindstrom; I am a resident of Johnson County and former member of the Board of County Commission, serving in that capacity for more than ten years. I currently serve on the Board of the Kansas Turnpike Authority and I want to encourage your support of HB 2605.

This bill is tremendously important to everyone who travels or works on the Kansas Turnpike system. Those who use the system on a regular basis have firsthand knowledge of traffic flow concerns that have or can be experienced when vehicles are held up, for various reasons, in the lanes at the toll booths. And of course, this occurs more frequently and is far more frustrating during times of high traffic or special events.

My highest priority is for the safety of everyone who uses this system; those who travel on the Turnpike and just as important, our dedicated Kansas Turnpike Authority employees. Too often, our toll both employees are forced to close or shut down their lanes to walk across traffic so that they can solve a problem or address a situation that has stalled or hindered the free flow of traffic in the electronic lanes. These incidents present unique challenges to both employees and to the travelers of our system.

The Kansas Turnpike is a vital transportation system and tremendous asset that, most assuredly, benefits the People and Commerce of our Great State. The Kansas Turnpike Authority knows that in order to remain a successful transportation system, the Kansas Turnpike must remain safe, convenient, expeditious, self-sustaining and up-to-date. These fundamental goals require that we continually make essential changes, especially in the high-traffic terminals, such as Eastern Terminal near Bonner Springs.

As the Turnpike Authority moves forward with changes to address safety challenges, customer service and more efficient tolling methods, we are mindful to protect and keep a user based fee model that is equitable.

HB 2605 is what every other tolling agency has suggested and it will enable the Kansas Turnpike Authority to accomplish our goals in a way that is fiscally responsible and allows us to safely operate in a manner that ensures that everyone pays their tolls when traveling the Kansas Turnpike Authority.

I thank you allowing me to submit my letter of support of HB 2605 to the Senate Transportation Committee and for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Dave Lindstrom
Johnson County Resident
KTA Board Member