

**Testimony on SB 26 relating to Vessel Registrations
To
The House Committee on Transportation**

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SB 26 seeks to raise the cap on vessel registration fees. **The Department supports the provisions contained in the bill.** The provisions of the bill would be effective July 1, 2017.

There are currently approximately 90,000 mechanically-propelled and sailing vessels registered with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism for use on public waters. The current registration fee is \$30 for a three-year period, which is the cap of the registration fee allowed by statute.

This amendment would raise the statutory limit on vessel registration fees. **Registration fees were last increased in 2006.** These fees are used for boat ramp and access projects, safety buoys and marking dangerous objects in the waters of the state, and for boating safety enforcement. **The Department is in danger of reverting federal funds for lack of matching funds for projects and the Boating Fee Fund hit all-time lows last year.**

All Department fees are set by the KDWP Commission after public hearings on the regulation.

The Department appreciates the support of the Committee in recommending favorably the bill.