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House of Representatives

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Steven C. Johnson
Representative, 108th District

Before the House Transportation Committee

Testimony on HB 2722

Representative Steven Johnson

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee.

My name is Steven Johnson and it is my pleasure to serve with you as a member of the House of Representatives from the 108th District. I appear before you today as a proponent of House Bill 2722.

This bill was introduced at the request of my constituent, John Tinkler. Mr. Tinkler had the experience of registering his Polaris Razor for use in the state of South Dakota. There, worksite utility vehicles can be registered similarly to a motorcycle for use on state roads. The convenience is appreciated for residents, or hunters and other visitors exploring the state. Visitors such as Mr. Tinkler can register their vehicles for shorter periods such as a week.

We considered possible approaches in Kansas. While South Dakota allows travel anywhere in the state, there may be issues using the vehicles in some city environments. Nonetheless, the vehicles may be safer than some others which are legal on our state roads.

This bill is limited to addressing two issues:

- 1.) Allow worksite vehicles on state roads inside city limits where cities allow the vehicles. This solves a problem such as to allow someone to run an errand to get parts during harvest. Some towns may not have a state road and the trip is already legal. In other towns where a state road is a main street it can be a limiting factor. Drivers would have to comply with all other applicable laws.
- 2.) Allow worksite vehicles to cross state roads.

The following points were sent to me by Mr. Tinkler as additional points of consideration:

1. Safer on roadways than bicycles, mopeds, golf carts, ect. Worksite vehicles can merge in with speed of traffic, which bicycles, mopeds and golf carts probably do not.
2. Might think about registering & licensing. This could be good revenue for the state and could be done similar to motorcycles.
3. It would be a good way to grow and stimulate sales for Kansas's local economies if people were not restricted where they could or could not operate these vehicles.

4. For safety in the main stream of normal traffic a vehicle like this should have to have the ability to maintain a speed of 40 MPH or greater.
5. Makes of these vehicles to be considered, just to name a few, Polaris, Yamaha, Kawasaki, John Deere, Can Am, Kubota. Again, think of positive effect this could have on the Kansas economy.

I welcome the committee's continued deliberation should there be other changes needed to make the treatment of various vehicles as consistent as possible. Thank you for your consideration.