



**Travel Industry
Association of Kansas**

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**Testimony Before the House Transportation Committee
HB 2775**

By Natalie Bright, Executive Director

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee;

The Travel Industry Association of Kansas (TIAK) is the unified voice of tourism in the state. TIAK represents the many advocates of the travel industry in Kansas such as Convention and Visitors Bureaus, hotels and attractions. TIAK members work to attract visitors to Kansas and encourage travel throughout the state. Tourism is extremely important to the economic welfare of Kansas.

TIAK is here to support HB 2775, a bill to establish the joint legislative transportation vision task force. This taskforce is charged with reviewing and evaluating the state highway fund and the state highway transportation system. This taskforce is important as the current 10-year transportation program is set to expire and a new transportation must be enacted. TIAK members are very supportive of good roads in the state. Visitors, from both inside and outside of the state, travel to tourist destinations, attractions and events depend on a quality transportation system. We support a high quality infrastructure and support this bill.

Our tourism professionals are charged with the promotion and attraction of tourists to STAR bond projects, and ultimately responsible for their success. As such, we respectfully request language be inserted into SB 434 requiring a local tourism professional be part of the development of future STAR bond projects to assure they are viable and accurately designed to attract tourists to our state.

In addition to our support of this bill, we request that a tourism representative be placed on the taskforce. We request this addition because TIAK members are the ones promoting and attracting visitors to the state and we believe that our voice is important to this discussion.

Thank you for your supportive of this taskforce and of HB 2775. I will be happy to answer questions at the appropriate time.