

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 184

BY

JAY SCOTT EMLER

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. Thank you for allowing me to appear in support of SB 184 this morning. My name is Jay Emler and I am one of the three commissioners at the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC).

Adjutant General Tod Bunting first presented the concept of the Kansas Intelligence Fusion Center (KIFC) to the Joint Committee on Kansas Security in 2004 or 2005 when both Representative Tapanelli and I served on that committee. The idea at the time was to have a fusion center like none other in the United States. That concept has come to fruition. Recently, the president of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners referred to the KIFC as “the world class fusion center in Kansas.”

It is now time to take the next evolutionary step for the KIFC and provide for not only its continued existence, but also a mechanism to allow private partners to fund their portion of the expenses incurred by the KIFC on their behalf. To that end, SB 184 provides the necessary structure.

The KCC has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Adjutant General and the Attorney General to provide grant funding for an analyst to work on the energy sector. It is also in negotiations for a second grant to provide an additional analyst for critical infrastructure. Next week I will be meeting with regulatory commissioners from other states and energy company executives about the benefits of the KIFC model. Kansas has the opportunity to remain in the forefront of providing an outstanding, one-of-a-kind fusion center with the passage of SB 184.

I respectfully request your favorable consideration of SB 184 and I will be happy to stand for questions.