



February 20, 2019

TO: Chairman John Barker, Vice-Chair Francis Averkamp, Ranking Minority  
Member Louis Ruiz and Members of the Federal and State Affairs Committee  
FROM: Ron Keefover, President of the Kansas Sunshine Coalition for Open Government  
RE: Testimony in Support of HB 2067

The Kansas Sunshine Coalition for Open Government is once again pleased to present testimony supporting legislation that would truly let the sunshine in on the Kansas legislative committee process. HB 2067 will allow your constituencies the opportunity for the first time in our state history to have real-time access to the important work you do in the committees. As I know you know the real labor in legislation occurs in committees and their hearings, such as this one.

It has been my experience over many years that the thoughtful and informed discussions that occur in the Kansas legislative committees are vital to public understanding of the laws, which you work on so diligently in and out of hearings. So far, that information can be only obtained from such reports as the news media make available in their coverage. For that reason alone, the Sunshine Coalition suggests that opening these hearings to Internet streaming will provide a wonderful opportunity for committee members to showcase their work to your constituencies who are unable to personally attend the hearings.

Having overseen the 2012 implementation of video streaming at the state Supreme Court, I can tell you first-hand that these broadcasts and their archives have been excellent tools in educating and informing our citizenry about who the justices of the Supreme Court are and what it is that they do. I am firmly convinced that making similar capabilities for legislative committee members available will be a positive landmark decision in our legislative history.

Finally, and just for the Committee's edification, the Sunshine Coalition for Open Government is a statewide coalition established in 2000. It includes representatives of like-minded non-profit organizations, journalism and law professors, members of the news media and other citizens committed to promoting open government in Kansas.

This bill will indeed shine light on the legislative process with its rays penetrating the darkness that shrouds an important area of our state government that is little understood by many citizens. I urge your favorable consideration of HB 2067, and thank you for the opportunity to present this proponent testimony.

**KANSAS SUNSHINE COALITION FOR OPEN GOVERNMENT**  
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