



March 14, 2019

Ash Grove Cement Company – Jacqueline K. Clark: SUPPORT HBs 2371 and 2372

Chairman Johnson, Vice Chairman Mason and members of the House Taxation Committee, I am Jacqueline Clark, Ash Grove Cement Company's head of government relations. I offer comments from our company in support of your efforts to secure additional revenue to invest in transportation projects in Kansas.

As you know, Ash Grove's corporate office is located in Overland Park. We are in our 137th year in the cement manufacturing business. You may be aware that our company was purchased by CRH, plc., and we to continue operating here with "business as usual." Many of you are familiar with our Chanute cement manufacturing plant where more than 125 employees are located.

For many years, Ash Grove has supported all efforts to fully fund transportation infrastructure in Kansas. We have been actively engaged in recent sessions to stem the tide of shifting funds away from transportation projects or to find additional revenue sources.

Last year we were engaged in supporting the development of the Transportation Task Force. Once formed, we followed its meetings closely. HBs 2371 and 2372 are a result of the good work the task force completed.

We support HBs 2371 and 2372. We agree that increasing the permit fee for oversize or overweight vehicles is one element of ensuring adequate funding for Kansas roads and bridges.

Regarding HB 2372, which would increase registration fees for passenger hybrid and electric cars to share in the responsibility for funding Kansas roads and bridges, it adds an element for funding that likely will grow in the future. In 2017 nine states added such special fees/registrations. Before that, 10 states already had special fees/registrations for these vehicles, which brings the total to 19 states. The fees range from \$50 per vehicle in Colorado and Wyoming up to \$200 per vehicle in Georgia and West Virginia, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. We would join other states who decided to extend the responsibility for infrastructure to all users.

We look forward to discussing the task force's other recommendations. Thank you for the focus you are bringing to transportation funding. We are eager to support your efforts.