

To: Kansas House Transportation Committee

From: Joe Grisolano, Crawford County Treasurer

Subject: HB 2180

Chairman Proehl and Committee members:

I am here today to support HB 2180. This legislation originated from a working group of Kansas County Treasurers, the Department of Revenue, and legislators from the Transportation Committees of both the House and Senate. This group met to develop an understanding of County Motor Vehicle operations and deal with the stagnant revenues and rising costs of performing Motor Vehicle work for all Kansans. The group formed a strong consensus to simplify the incredibly complex fee model and make the county fee structure more transparent for customers.

Under current law, the fee structure is complicated, hard to explain, and not transparent. HB 2180 removes all hidden fees from the statutes and replaces them with one \$10.00 flat fee the county will retain to support all Motor Vehicle services. If this bill becomes law, the average increase for all motor vehicle transactions is only \$1.64. This legislation also eliminates all satellite office and facility fees some counties charge, so there will be no fee differences from county to county. All fees would be the same statewide and every customer would see the amount the county keeps on their receipt.

It has been many years since any fees retained by counties for performing Motor Vehicle transactions on behalf of the Department of Revenue have increased, despite operational costs continuing to rise. An example of that is until recently, the Department of Revenue supplied all county offices with computers, printers, and scanners that are required for Motor Vehicle work. Now, counties must absorb the costs when replacing those items. County Treasurers are supposed to fund Motor Vehicle operations solely from fee revenue collected from performing those services. This legislation will allow all county offices to fully fund their Motor Vehicle operation. Currently, almost all counties receive county tax levy support for some Motor Vehicle expenses. In Crawford County, the Motor Vehicle Operating Fund does not pay any of the employee benefits for Motor Vehicle employees. The fund balance as of December 31, 2018, which by statute must be transferred to the General Fund, is \$41,289.11. This amount would not come close to covering all employee benefits for our six full-time employees.

County Treasurers overwhelmingly support this flat, simplified, and transparent fee concept. In fact, 95% of all 105 Treasurers voted to support this legislation when we presented it to them. In closing, I ask for you to support HB 2180. This flat fee bill is easy to explain, contains no hidden fees, and would provide simple, transparent revenue to support county Motor Vehicle operations. Thank you for your consideration and allowing me to speak today in support of HB 2180.