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J.R. CLAEYS
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STATE BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 167

Dear Members of the House Transportation Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 167, adding protections for utility and telecommunications workers who are actively working along roadways in Kansas.

Current Kansas Law requires motorists to move over if possible, or slow down, when passing a parked law enforcement vehicle, road construction vehicle, or Kansas Department of Transportation vehicle parked alongside a roadway with hazard lights flashing. Senate Bill 167 adds utility vehicles, such as Evergy or Kansas Gas Services, and telecommunications vehicles, such as AT&T or Cox Communications, to the list of vehicles that motorists must move over a lane or slow down for when lights are activated.

My father worked for 50 years in Salina for AT&T (Western Electric, Southwestern Bell, SBC). Over the years I've seen these vehicles often placed in positions alongside a roadway accessing power and telecommunication lines with a worker situated above the ground in a bucket. Adding protections for these workers is important to the safety of both the workers and to motorists approaching an area where workers and their equipment are present.

Thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 167. I support the bill and any clarifying amendments brought by the League of Kansas Municipalities that strengthen the aim of the bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J.R. Claeys".

Senator J.R. Claeys