



KANSAS
ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTIES

715 SW 10th Avenue • Topeka, KS

66612 785-272-2585

www.kansascounties.org

Testimony of the KAC Local Road Engineer to the
Senate Committee on Transportation
Proponent for HB 2295
March 24, 2021

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2295, which provides an exemption from the requirement of obtaining a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) for municipal employees operating a motor grader vehicle within the boundaries of such municipality.

The purpose of the CDL requirement is to reduce or prevent commercial motor vehicle accidents and the severity of accidents. It ensures that large commercial vehicles operating on our roads and highways are operated as safe as possible. The requirements of obtaining and retaining a CDL, such as passing a skills test and undergoing periodic drug and alcohol testing, are measures toward keeping roads and highways as safe as possible.

Motor grader vehicles are operated at very low speeds on low traffic volume roads that are typically rock or sand surfaced. Motor graders have only one operator with no passengers. Operating a motor grader does not raise the same safety concerns to the traveling public as does a large truck operating at highway speeds.

The proposed bill does not exempt from the CDL requirements those municipal employees who drive dump trucks or truck tractors pulling trailers hauling equipment on our roads and highways. It only exempts those who operate a motor grader from the CDL requirement. Many counties have grader districts with employees who drive a pickup truck to the location of the stored motor grader to begin and end their work day. Those employees spend their entire work day operating a motor grader. It is these municipal employees that would be exempted from the CDL requirements under this bill.

I support HB 2295 as a reasonable exemption to the CDL requirement for operating commercial vehicles, and ask this committee to recommend the bill favorably for passage. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Keith Browning, P.E.
Local Road Engineer
Kansas Association of Counties