

February 1, 2022

Senate Transportation Committee
Chairman Mike Peterson
Kansas State Capitol

MITCHELL P. ROWLE
Business Manager
Secretary-Treasurer
Room 546-S
300 SW 10th Street
Topeka, KS 66612

JAMES DESMARAIS
President

WILLIAM TILLMAN
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MIKE KANE
Political Affairs

JEFFREY PHILGREEN
Field Representative

RON CHRISTIAN II
Field Representative

RE: Written Only – Opposition Testimony to SB 379

Chairman Peterson and Members of the Committee:

I write to you today to voice Laborers Local Union 1290's ("Local 1290") strong opposition to SB 379. Local 1290 represents thousands of Kansas workers' all across the State. We voice our opposition today because SB 379 puts all of our members and their families at risk. SB 379 will do two things. First, it will kill thousands of Kansas jobs all across the State. Second, it puts at risk all Kansas drivers and passengers.

The Kansas trucking industry is vital to the Kansas economy. Anytime I am on the road I see numerous trucks driving on our highways and streets. Passage of SB 379 will keep the trucks on the road but will eliminate the jobs of those currently driving the trucks. Not only is this not safe, but also terrible for the economy. Eliminating these positions will be a detriment to the Kansas economy. Thousands of Kansas workers will have to count on the State to provide them unemployment while they look for a new job. The jobs they will find will likely not be anywhere near the salary they are currently making. Kansas truck drivers deserve better than SB 379.

Additionally, Kansas's drivers and passengers deserve more protections from their Legislators. Technology is advancing in this day and age, there is no question about that. However, many times I have seen the wifi drop in my house, my cell phone to lose signal, and of course the Bluetooth on my cell phone never correctly pairs to my truck so I can use hands free driving. I don't even want to think about when my small drone lost signal and fell out of the sky falling apart. Luckily, no one was hurt but I had to by a new drone. I know many of you have seen these same issues. Typically, we move on with our day and are simply annoyed by the situation. However, that won't be the same if SB 379 is passed. With the passage of SB 379 we will putting the lives of all those on Kansas roads, in the hands of the same technology we get annoyed by every day. What happens if one of the trucks loses signal? It likely will not end up as simple as me replacing my drone. Instead, it will likely injure or even worst cause fatalities on Kansas roads.

I urge the Members of the Senate Transportation committee, to not only support Kansas truck drivers, but to also protect the lives of all Kansas drivers and passengers. I urge you to VOTE NO on SB 379.

Sincerely,

Mike Kane