

STATE OF KANSAS

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HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS,
CHAIRMAN

January 24, 2024

Kansas House Appropriations Committee

Dear Committee Members:

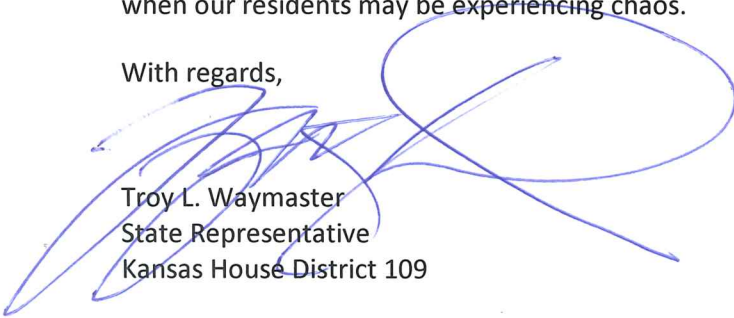
On December 15, 2021, a once in a lifetime event occurred in my House District. The dry conditions and excessive winds generated a "perfect storm" and capitulated what is referred to as the "Four County Fire." The devastating fire engulfed the counties of Ellis, Osborne, Rooks, and Russell which resulted in destruction, such as burnt homes, charred fields and livestock, and ruined lives. Two days after the initial fire, with fires still burning, I met with constituents in the small community of Paradise, Kansas. It was apparent to me then that the state of Kansas had a lacking and dismal disaster response system.

While serving on the Wildfire Taskforce and listening to the members of the taskforce in Crisis City, Kansas, I began crafting House Bill 2468. House Bill 2468 establishes a structured disaster response, for all disasters, not only wildfires, and has a single point of contact with the Adjutant General and Kansas Department of Emergency Management. House Bill 2468 would create a systematic process of contacting other state agencies that may be utilized before, during, and after the disaster event. This bill also creates a Disaster Contingency Fund that local communities, affected by a natural disaster, can utilize to match Federal dollars.

Since the introduction of the bill, I have spoken with many entities and realize that more clarification is needed in regards to the selection of the Incident Commander in Section 1 of House Bill 2468. I plan to draft an amendment to correct this and reestablish the original intent.

The state of Kansas has a responsibility to protect and guide Kansans during the unfortunate time of a disaster. House Bill 2468 assists Kansans at these most vulnerable and critical times when a natural disaster occurs. I support House Bill 2468 and feel that this bill creates some piece of mind during a time when our residents may be experiencing chaos.

With regards,


Troy L. Waymaster
State Representative
Kansas House District 109