



Senate Bill 229 Support

Written Testimony submitted to the
Senate Committee on Transportation

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Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce

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Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee:

The Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce expresses its enthusiastic support for Senate Bill 229, which provides for the issuance of a City of Topeka license plate bearing the recently adopted City of Topeka flag design.

The Topeka Chamber is part of a constellation of organizations, known collectively as the Greater Topeka Partnership, which is dedicated to making the future of Topeka and Shawnee County more prosperous. This will only occur if we are successful in elevating our sense of community pride and in making our community more attractive as a place to live, work and visit.

The Topeka flag license plate presents an exciting new way for the Topeka community to show its pride. The new flag image was designed through a community input process managed by the Greater Topeka Partnership, Inc., and in particular its young professionals group called Forge. It was then adopted as the City of Topeka's official flag on November 12, 2019.

The new flag design celebrates the people and history of Topeka. The gold, green and white capture, respectively, the beauty of the city's sunlit hills, the fertile Kaw Valley and Topeka's significance in our nation's quest for a more just society. Blue ineluctably links Topeka's flag to that of the great state of which she is the capital. The sunflower in the design, of course, echoes Kansas' state flower; its nine petals representing Topeka's founders. The green arrow pointing to the star represents both the statue atop the Kansas Statehouse and the state motto, "Ad Astra Per Aspera," which requires no translation for any Kansan! This motto has special significance for the capital city as it speaks to Topeka's birth through adversity during the civil war and our role in the nation's fight for civil rights.

These elements combine to capture the pride Topekans share for their hometown. Senate Bill 229 gives them an opportunity to display that pride as they travel across the state and the nation. Thank you in advance for affording them that opportunity by supporting Senate Bill 229.

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