

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**REGARDING HOUSE BILL 2589
RELATING TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO ENTER INTO
UTILITY POLE ATTACHMENT AGREEMENTS**

February 8, 2024

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) is providing neutral testimony on House Bill (HB) 2589. This bill provides for law enforcement agencies to enter into an agreement with utilities to install law enforcement equipment on the utilities' poles. KDOT asks that the committee include amended language to address current existing requirements for anyone working on the State's highway right or way to obtain a permit. Currently anyone needing to work on the state's highway right of way including law enforcement agencies and public utilities must obtain a permit from KDOT to work on state highway right of way. The agency simply asks that this bill also address what is allowed by statute and is current practice. Obtaining a permit from KDOT allows KDOT and those working on the highway right of way to have a safe working environment while also providing a safe transportation corridor for the traveling public. Additionally, FHWA requires state departments of transportation to control the use of federal aid highway right of way and has approved KDOT's permit process.

KDOT has provided the requested amended language with our testimony. The agency looks forward to continuing to work with our valued public utilities and law enforcement agencies to keep the state's highway right of way safe and process permit requests in a timely manner.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide neutral testimony on HB 2589.