

THE BELLEVILLE TELESCOPE

"At the Crossroads of America"

Feb. 5 2024

Kansas Senate Transportation Committee

Re: Senate Bill 357

Good morning.

My name is Fred Arnold and I am publisher/owner of The Belleville (Kansas) Telescope, a weekly newspaper located in Republic County.

I am here today to speak as a proponent of Senate Bill 357 to consider the renaming of a portion of US Highway 81, running through Republic County to the Merle Miller Memorial Highway. Merle was my mentor, a lifelong Kansas newspaperman and an over 40-year proponent of upgrading US 81 from two lane to four lane status. Without his efforts this country's only border to border four lane expressway would not have been possible.

I have attached for your consideration several articles published in the Telescope in recent months as supporting documentation.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred Arnold, publisher