

March 14, 2017

Committee on Transportation Testimony

RE: Kansas SB 144 – Recommended Amendment/Exemption

Anthony Hawk -- Licensed Amateur Radio Operator – FCC Issued Call Sign: KE0KJQ

In opposition:

While I believe that SB 144 may be beneficial in principle, it lacks an exemption that must be included before the bill can be passed. In its present form, the bill contains exemptions for both public safety and transit-for-hire operators if they are using permanently installed communication devices.

I feel an exemption for FCC licensed amateur radio operators should be added to the bill. Amateur radio operators typically use radio equipment that has been permanently mounted in their vehicles. The radios are similar in function to the radios used by public safety officials. Typical operation of the radio requires only picking up a microphone and pressing a button on the side of the microphone. There is little to no need to ever look away from the road to operate a radio.

Licensed amateur radio operators provide a significant number of services to our great state including storm spotting, organization and coordination of public events and disaster recovery. Limiting the use of radio equipment by licensed radio amateurs would inhibit our ability to effectively serve the community.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter and your commitment to the safety of the citizens of the State of Kansas.

Anthony Hawk  
Olathe, Kansas