

Dwight D. Eisenhower State Office Building  
700 S.W. Harrison Street  
Topeka, KS 66603-3745  
Richard Carlson, Secretary



Phone: 785-296-3831  
Fax: 785-296-0119  
Hearing Impaired - 711  
kdot#publicinfo@ks.gov  
<http://www.ksdot.org>  
Governor Jeff Colyer, M.D.

TESTIMONY BEFORE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

REGARDING HOUSE BILL 2605  
CONCERNING THE PLATOONING OF MOTOR VEHICLES

FEBRUARY 15, 2018

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

My name is Josh Powell, and I am the Legislative and Public Outreach Coordinator at the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT). I am here to provide testimony for KDOT on House Bill 2605.

House Bill 2605 defines what it means for motor vehicles to "platoon" as well as the appropriate following distances for motor vehicles traveling in a platoon.

KDOT recognizes the operational and fuel-saving benefits of permitting motor vehicles to travel in a platoon. KDOT further understands that other states have enacted legislation dealing with motor vehicles traveling in a platoon.

KDOT does not oppose the allowance of motor vehicles traveling in a platoon on Kansas highways. However, before the language of House Bill 2605 is finalized, KDOT would like to see the Kansas Motor Carriers Association, the sponsor of this bill, engage in a dialogue with industry partners and other state agencies to better understand the multitude of perspectives on this topic as well as how the allowance of motor vehicles traveling in a platoon might impact the every day maintenance and operations of Kansas highways. Additionally, KDOT believes consideration should be given to addressing issues which may be beneficial in initially regulating platooning operations. These include the maximum number of freight vehicles allowed in a platooning operation, whether platooning should be allowed at night, whether vehicles carrying oversize/overweight loads should be allowed to travel in platoons, and if so, what sizes of loads should be allowed to platoon, and whether platooning operations should be marked in a way to alert other drivers that they may be following or attempting to pass a platoon of vehicles.

Thank you for your time today. I will now stand for questions.

House Transportation  
Date: 2-15-18  
Attachment # 6