



House Transportation Committee

March 15, 2018

HB 2775

Jacqueline Clark, Ash Grove Cement Company

Support

Chairman Proehl, Vice Chairman Francis and members of the House Transportation Committee, I am Jacqueline Clark, Ash Grove Cement Company's head of government relations. I am pleased to be here today to share our company's support for your efforts to create a framework to discuss transportation projects and funding in Kansas.

As you may know, Ash Grove is the largest U.S.-owned cement manufacturer and is headquartered in Overland Park, Kansas. Last year the company celebrated its 135th anniversary in the cement manufacturing business. While you may be aware it is being acquired by CRH, plc., the company is and plans to continue operating here with "business as usual."

To that end, we support all efforts to fully fund transportation infrastructure in Kansas. We have been actively engaged in recent sessions to stem the tide of shifting funds away from transportation projects or to find additional revenue sources. We support HB 2775. As our company's territory reaches from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Coast, we have extensive subject matter expertise and relationships with leaders in states where transportation infrastructure funding investments have been made in recent years, and we appreciate that the bill includes a designee from the cement manufacturing industry. The industry has a rich history in the state and cement is the raw material that is a component of ready mixed concrete. We believe Ash Grove could enhance the committee's discussion about approaches it will consider.

While we have a competitor that also is headquartered in Kansas, and we work collaboratively with them, we believe that our company's reach and scope would provide the greatest value as a member of the committee.

We appreciate the focus you are bringing to transportation funding and are eager to support the effort.