

TESTIMONY

Kansas House of Representatives Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Telecommunications
Kenneth A Nelson
Geographic Information Officer, DASC Director
Kansas Geological Survey
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Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony regarding HB2084. I am the Kansas Geographic Information Officer and direct the activities of the Kansas Data Access & Support Center (DASC), which serves as the state's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data clearinghouse. DASC is located at the Kansas Geological Survey, a research and service division of the University of Kansas. KGS and DASC do not have any regulatory responsibility and we do not take positions on policy. We do, however, provide credible information that informs policy decisions.

Undoubtedly, you will receive testimony describing the outstanding achievements of the Kansas Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG911) program and the importance of HB2084. Through the leadership of the Kansas 911 Coordinating Council (Council), the skilled guidance of Council staff, and the dedication of local law enforcement and private sector partners, Kansas has become a leader in NG911 technology planning, management, and call delivery. Most importantly, the citizens, visitors, and businesses of our great state are all safer because of this effort.

While the above statement is true, I feel it is important to offer another perspective on this legislation. A key component of the Kansas NG911 system is current and accurate mapping data, commonly referred to as GIS data. Once only used as a visual reference, GIS data is now used to determine where to route a 911 call. To this end, statewide, standardized, authoritative data layers have been developed and maintained. While the primary purpose of these data are to support 911 operations, these critical data layers (road centerlines, address points, emergency service boundaries, and high-resolution aerial imagery), are useful to nearly every mapping program across the state. For example, the Kansas Department of Transportation has incorporated local road data into their "all-roads" network to improve completeness and currency, the Kansas Department of Revenue has incorporated the statewide aerial imagery into the property appraisal mapping application provided to local government, and the Kansas Department of Health & Environment references the address point dataset to locate civic addresses. What's more, these data layers are utilized in some capacity by nearly every local jurisdiction across the state.

While difficult to quantify, it is important to recognize the enormous Return on Investment (ROI) realized through sharing these data layers. We all share the same geography. Accordingly, each time these data are shared, state and local government avoid cost and save taxpayer dollars. HB2084 will help to ensure the continued success of the NG911 program and the continued maintenance of these foundational data layers that have proven invaluable across all sectors of government in Kansas.

Again, I appreciate the opportunity to provide this written testimony and am available to answer questions as needed.

Sincerely,



Kenneth A Nelson,
Geographic Information Officer, DASC Director
Research Program Director
Kansas Geological Survey, University of Kansas