



March 12, 2019

Ash Grove Cement Company – Jacqueline K. Clark: SUPPORT HB 2370 & 2381

Chairman Johnson, Vice Chair Mason and members of the House Taxation Committee, I am Jacqueline Clark, Ash Grove Cement Company's head of government relations. I offer comments from our company in support of your efforts to invest in transportation projects in Kansas. I regret not being able to be with you in person today due to previously scheduled business travel.

As you may know, Ash Grove's corporate office is located in Overland Park. We are in our 137th year in the cement manufacturing business. You may be aware that our company was purchased by CRH, plc., and we to continue operating here with "business as usual." Many of you are familiar with our Chanute cement manufacturing plant where more than 125 employees are located.

For many years, Ash Grove has supported 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.

Last year we were engaged in supporting the development of the Transportation Task Force. Once formed, we followed its meetings closely. HB 2370 & HB 2381 are the result of the good work the task force completed.

We support HB 2370 and HB 2381. We appreciate that both bills would boost the motor fuels tax and we believe that provisions ensuring that the revenues are protected from being swept for other uses are vitally important. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, since 2013, 26 states have increased or restructured their motor fuels tax. In 2017, West Virginia increased its motor fuels tax by 3.5 cents per gallon and New Jersey increased its by 23.5 cents per gallon in 2016. Twenty states have variable rates.

We look forward to discussing the task force's other recommendations. Thank you for the focus you are bringing to transportation funding. We are eager to support your efforts.