



March 19, 2019

Ash Grove Cement Company – Jacqueline K. Clark: SUPPORT HB 2373

Chairman Proehl, Vice Chair Francis and members of the House Transportation 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.

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 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 2373 is the result of the good work the task force completed.

We support HB 2373. We appreciate that this bill would potentially create the fourth framework for transportation planning. Since 1989 there have been three 10-year plans for Kansas transportation and they created the "roadmap" for Kansans to understand where the system would grow or improve. This transparency is important in the use of tax revenues.

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.