

To: House Transportation Committee

From: Deborah Barnes, Staff Attorney, League of Kansas Municipalities

Date: January 23, 2020

RE: Support for HB 2444

I want to thank Chairman Proehl and the members of the Committee for giving the League of Kansas Municipalities the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB 2444.

HB 2444 provides for the addition of “blackout” license plates to distinctive license plates available to Kansans purchasing license plates. The blackout license plates will have white letters and numbers on a black background. Applicants for the blackout license plate will make an annual payment of \$35.00 to the county treasurer to go to the local roads improvement fund fee.

The League supports this concept. Local roads are important to the overall transportation network in Kansas. Additional means of supporting that network are helpful for all Kansans. We understand the plates have been a success in Iowa, where they became available in July 2019, and have apparently generated \$850,000 for the Iowa Road Use Tax Fund.

For these reasons, the League supports HB 2444 and respectfully asks this Committee to pass the bill to the full House for consideration.