



January 23, 2020

**Written Only
Proponent Testimony on HB 2444
House Transportation Committee**

Chairman Proehl and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity submit testimony on behalf of the Kansas Contractors Association (KCA). The KCA represents more than 200 companies working in Kansas' heavy construction industry. Collectively, these companies create and sustain thousands of good-paying, private sector jobs across our state.

The KCA supports HB 2444 which creates a blackout license plate. The revenue generated from sales would be deposited at KDOT in a local roads improvement fund. The Department of Transportation can distribute money from the local roads improvement fund for the purpose of the cost-share program. The cost-share program is a great opportunity for local units of government to apply for funding for local projects.

HB 2444 provides a unique opportunity to raise money for funding our state's infrastructure needs all while allowing Kansans to choose a modern license plate. In 2019, Iowa passed similar legislation establishing a blackout license plate available to drivers. According to the Des Moines Register, over 19,500 blackout license plates have been ordered, raising approximately \$850,000 for the Iowa transportation system.

Again, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit proponent testimony in support of HB 2444. We appreciate your favorable consideration of HB 2444 to help improve the state's transportation infrastructure.

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