



March 23, 2021

Kansas Senate Transportation Committee
Attention: Chairman Petersen

RE: Proponent Testimony on SB305

Dear Chairman Petersen,

In 2008, the Park City Police Department purchased one of the first mobile license plate readers that was ever put into service by a law enforcement agency in south central Kansas. We have continued to use license plate reader (LPR) technology since that time.

When I explain to the public how license plate readers work, I use an analogy. Imagine that one of our police officers is parked by the side of the highway. Our officer can already run all the same inquiries on his in-car computer that an automated license plate reader can run. The main difference is that the officer would have to type very fast to accomplish what an LPR unit can do. In both instances, records are already kept regarding which officer and agency ran these inquiries.

Our department has a written policy on the use of LPR data which strictly limits its use. In addition to our department policy, the use of any criminal justice information is already regulated by Kansas and federal law. The FBI's Criminal Justice Information Services Division promulgates regulations on the use of criminal justice information. Kansas mirrors this with similar laws under the supervision of the Kansas Highway Patrol's Criminal Justice Information Systems division.

I believe other testimony will be presented to the Committee regarding the outstanding results that other law enforcement agencies have had using LPR technology to capture wanted criminals, locate kidnapped children, recover stolen cars and much more. Kansas law enforcement agencies have operated for many years without a state statute that specifically regulates LPR technology. However, I fully understand the concerns that many citizens and elected officials have about privacy and the potential for abuse of information. I have always been concerned about the potential that LPR data could be abused by a rogue law enforcement officer somewhere in the state, and that abuse could spark legislation resulting in the complete loss of the technology for all law enforcement agencies. I think that would be a major step backwards for public safety.

We need statutory safeguards in place to make sure that this outstanding technology can continue to be used for the safety of the public, while at the same time preserving our precious privacy rights. I have reviewed SB305 carefully, and I fully support its passage.

Sincerely,

PHIL BOSTIAN
Chief of Police

Park City Police Department
1941 E. 61st St. N.
Park City, KS 67219-1909

O: 316.744.2011
F: 316.744.0317

