



**Senate Committee on Transportation  
Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 379  
Presented by Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs**

**Tuesday, February 1, 2022**

Mister Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber. The Kansas Chamber appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 379, creating the ability for the use of autonomous vehicles in a limited capacity.

SB 379 defines automated driving systems and autonomous vehicles, but the key definition of the bill is what is called “middle mile,” meaning “the intrastate commercial movement of goods, in a business-to-business capacity, between two or more fixed points on fixed, repeatable patterns.” SB 379 would modernize Kansas law to allow businesses in Kansas the ability to use new and developing technology for the delivery of goods and products. For example, a company could begin delivering from distribution center to storefront on repeatable routes without the need for drivers.

Last fall, the American Trucking Association issued a report that there were 80,000 open trucking jobs available in the United States, a partial factor to the current supply chain issues facing our country. COVID has impacted all industries, but not every industry has the ability to adopt automated technology to offset a shortage of employees.

If passed, SB 379 would help alleviate the pressure and demand to deliver products to businesses, again, with limited application. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 379 and I’m happy to answer any questions at the appropriate time.