



Senate Committee on Transportation

Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 271- Regulating the length of Trains

Presented by Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs, Kansas Chamber

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

Mister Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber. The Kansas Chamber represents small, medium and large businesses of all industry segments across the state. We appreciate the opportunity to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 271 which would set a maximum length for trains in the state, plus impose egregious penalties on businesses for violation of the law.

If passed into law, SB 271 would make Kansas the first state in the nation to regulate the maximum length of a train. Arguably, this jurisdiction lies solely with Congress and not with the states to ensure uniformity.

At a time when our country is still struggling to overcome the destruction to the supply chain post-pandemic, restricting the length of trains would make supply issues worse for businesses not only in Kansas but across the country as well as the amount of goods transported would be limited. Logistically, how would railroad companies manage the proper train length where all states but Kansas allow more train cars if such trains were to cross into Kansas?

And last, this bill would allow for penalties up to \$100,000 for violations which is not just punitive, but financially damaging. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 271, and I'm happy to answer any questions at the appropriate time.