

Before the Senate Transportation Committee

Thursday, February 15, 2024
SB 476 Written Proponent Testimony

Submitted by Mike Hoeme, Director of Transportation On behalf of the Staff of the Kansas Corporation Commission

Chairman Petersen, Vice Chair Kloos, Ranking Minority Member Corson, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on behalf of the staff of the Kansas Corporation Commission (Commission).

The Commission supports Senate Bill 476 in the creation of a new excessive speeding law for motor vehicles operating at a speed of 100 miles per hour or more. The safe operation of all vehicles in Kansas impacts all highway users.

The Kansas Corporation Commission has jurisdiction over the regulation of motor carriers operating commercial motor vehicles in Kansas. The top priority of the Commission's Transportation Division is to educate and regulate commercial motor carriers about the importance and value of safe operations. Safe operations includes traveling at safe speeds on the public highways and roads in Kansas.

Speeding accounts for nearly one-third of all fatalities on our roads, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in a study released last year. According to their data, drivers who were speeding were often also engage in other risky driving behaviors, including impairment by alcohol and not wearing a seatbelt.

By increasing the penalties for excessive speeding would encourage motor carriers to ensure drivers are maintaining safe speeds. By impacting drivers, both financial and through new restrictions, motor carriers are more likely to require their drivers maintain safe speeds. Because commercial motor vehicles account for most of the biggest vehicles on roadways, requiring such vehicles to operate at safer speeds increases the safety of the motoring public as a whole. Thus, legislation with the goal of deterring unsafe behavior on our highways is a benefit for all Kansans.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony with regard to Senate Bill 476.