

Detective Jacob Robison
Pawnee County Sheriff's Office
116 W. 8th Street
Larned, Kansas 67550
jacob.robison@pawneecountysheriff.org
(620) 285-2211
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House Committee on Commerce, Labor, and Economic Development
Kansas State Capitol
300 SW 10th Ave
Topeka, KS 66612

Subject: Opposition to HB 2293 – Concerns Over Drone Restrictions and Public Safety

Dear Chairperson Rep. Tarwater and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 2293, which seeks to restrict the use of certain drone manufacturers, including DJI. This legislation poses significant risks to public safety, economic growth, and the operational effectiveness of industries and first responders across Kansas.

While the intent of HB 2293 may be to encourage the use of American-made drones, the reality is that current domestic alternatives are technologically inferior, more expensive, and lack the proven reliability of DJI drones. DJI dominates the global drone market due to its superior capabilities in flight stability, battery life, and imaging technology. Restricting access to the best tools available would hinder industries that rely on drones, including agriculture, infrastructure inspection, search and rescue, and law enforcement.

A ban on DJI drones would directly impact public safety. First responders across the country, including Kansas fire departments, law enforcement, and emergency management teams, depend on DJI drones for critical operations such as disaster response, missing person searches, and hazardous material assessment. Without reliable alternatives, these agencies will face delays, increased costs, and reduced effectiveness in life-saving missions.

Additionally, this bill threatens economic development and innovation. Many small businesses, farmers, and entrepreneurs utilize DJI drones for aerial photography, surveying, and agricultural

monitoring. Forcing these businesses to switch to costlier and less capable alternatives would create unnecessary financial burdens and stifle growth in Kansas' drone industry.

I urge the committee to reject HB 2293 and instead seek policies that support competition, innovation, and the best technology available—regardless of origin. Public safety and economic vitality should not be sacrificed for an artificial preference that does not align with real-world capabilities and needs.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully request that you oppose this bill in the interest of Kansas residents, businesses, and first responders.

Sincerely,

Detective Jacob Robison

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