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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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**TIMOTHY H. JOHNSON**  
38TH DISTRICT

February 6, 2026

TO: House Committee on Federal & State Affairs  
Honorable Rep. Tom Kessler, Chair

RE: Verbal Proponent Testimony House Bill 2687

Chairman Kessler and members of the committee, I rise in support of HB 2687 as a co-sponsor. My experience in the operation of small planes began at the age of 17 when I graduated into the Explorer Scouts in an Air Troop in Kansas City, Kansas. There I spent two years receiving training as a student pilot, flying out of the Fairfax Airport in my home town. It was an amazing experience and provided a wide base of aviation training. Later as a member of the Wyandotte County Sheriff's Department I served as a spotter in our flight search program, which included primarily rotary powered craft.

I wish to speak to the issue that while many may consider this bill a matter for our lakes, the issue of our rivers is technically included in this legislation. I have never made a landing in a seaplane, but I have been part of search and rescue operations and escaped prisoner operations involving the Kansas and Missouri Rivers that encompass Wyandotte County. You can never experience anything more nerve wrecking than riding spotter with a crazed former Vietnam War helicopter pilot who skims along just a few feet above the water's surface and then sets down on a soft sand bar in the middle of the Kansas River.

HB 2687 in no way takes away from any of the safety provisions that are in place by those who supervise air traffic. This bill does clarify the opportunity for appropriate water based landings. I speculate that this bill could even stimulate tourism issues for seaplane operators to conduct flight operations at appropriate reservoirs and lakes. In Leavenworth County we have helicopter rides at the county fair that does great business. Would this promote tourism, it is something to consider.

Thank you for considering my testimony and I ask your support to send this to the House favorably.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rep. Timothy H. Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rep. Timothy H. Johnson  
38<sup>th</sup> District