

House Federal and State Affairs Committee
HB 2687
Proponent

Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 2687.

I have been around airplanes for as long as I can remember. I come from a multi-generation aviation family. In our house, getting your pilot's license was almost expected. I sometimes joke that I logged flight hours before I logged road miles, but it is not far from the truth. Flying has always been part of my life.

Today, I own a 60-year-old Beechcraft Bonanza built in Wichita, Kansas. That airplane has carried me all over the country, and it serves as a reminder that Kansas is more than a place where aviation happens. It is a place that builds it, supports it, and passes it down through generations. Aviation is part of our state's story, and it is part of my family's story too.

One thing flying teaches you early is respect. Respect for the rules, respect for safety, and respect for the people around you. Pilots operate under an extensive federal regulatory system through the FAA. Aquatic aircraft operations are already covered by clear federal standards, including right-of-way rules and operational safety requirements. This is not a loosely regulated activity.

HB 2687 provides clarity and consistency. Aviation works best when governed by uniform standards rather than a patchwork of additional or conflicting local regulations. The federal framework already in place provides strong oversight while allowing trained and licensed pilots to operate responsibly.

This bill helps ensure Kansas continues to support aviation access in a reasonable and consistent way. Pilots understand that safety and being good neighbors matter, whether operating from a runway or on water.

Kansas has always been a leader in aviation. Supporting this bill keeps that spirit intact.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I respectfully ask you to support HB 2687.

Sincerely,
Kerry Gooch