



Communications Coalition
of Kansas

Kansas Senate Committee on Utilities
WRITTEN PROPONENT Testimony for SB 57
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Good afternoon, Chairman Fagg and members of the committee. On behalf of the Communications Coalition of Kansas, I am offering testimony in favor of Senate Bill 57. The Communications Coalition of Kansas represents 29 rural local exchange carriers (RLECs) that provide service in the state of Kansas.

Our members understand as well as anyone the desire to accomplish construction projects quickly and avoid any roadblocks for that goal. They would love to be able to demand movement of facilities in the right of way that may hinder or delay their projects. However, they do not have that power. For government entities that do possess such power, we support Senate Bill 57's premise that they should be paying for the movement of facilities in the right of way.

When considering this legislation, you may have in your minds construction projects that require massive reconfigurations and movement within the right of way. That is not the scale of project CCK members generally see, but the impact is no different. Whether it is work on a state highway or a local road – and not infrequently, a bridge – rural broadband providers get caught up in relocating facilities in the right of way. At times, the fiber and other facilities of our broadband members have very recently been put in the ground, requiring the upheaval of new equipment.

We ask for the committee's support of Senate Bill 57 as a way to recognize all the costs of a construction project and not have those costs pushed onto those who use the public right of way.