



OFFICE OF
ATCHISON COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE

Joseph Snyder
Superintendent

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January 31, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Joe Snyder, and I serve as the Road & Bridge Superintendent for Atchison County. I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding SB 57. If passed, this bill would place a significant burden on our county, severely restricting our ability to manage and maintain our own right-of-way.

I fully understand the importance of utilities within county rights-of-way; however, they must be managed in a way that does not hinder the county's responsibilities. Currently, utility companies are operating without sufficient oversight, placing their lines in our right-of-way without obtaining the required permits and without paying any form of rent or usage fees. Given this, it is unreasonable to expect counties to bear the financial burden of relocating these utilities when they interfere with necessary infrastructure work.

At present, utilities are installing lines wherever and whenever they choose, often without regard to the established permitting process, which includes critical requirements such as traffic control, depth specifications, and proper notification. Despite my continued efforts to enforce compliance with our right-of-way application process, these companies frequently disregard these regulations.

Every day, our crews encounter utility lines obstructing essential maintenance work. We find lines running through existing culverts, cutting culverts in half, or positioned directly above culverts—sometimes at both ends and in the middle. Many are placed in drainage ditches, preventing us from performing necessary cleaning and maintenance. Some installations even obstruct roadside mowing. Additionally, utility lines attached to bridges must be relocated before we can perform repairs or replacements, and these relocations happen according to the utility company's schedule, not ours—causing unnecessary project delays.

Given the challenges we already face, it is unreasonable and financially unfeasible for counties to be required to pay for the relocation of utility lines that were placed in our right-of-way without permission. I strongly urge reconsideration of SB 57 to prevent further hardship on county governments that are already stretched thin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph Snyder".

Joseph Snyder

Road & Bridge Superintendent
Atchison County