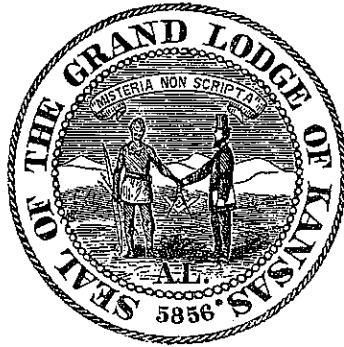


The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge
of Ancient Free & Accepted Masons of Kansas



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Testimony of Joesphe Stiles
Committee on Transportation
Kansas House of Representatives
Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mister Chairman, Representative Wetta, Honorable Gentleman and Gentlewomen:

I am Joesphe Stiles, the Assistant Grand Secretary of Freemasons in Kansas. While I am not Grand, I might offer as an explanation that the Grand Lodge is the governing body of Masonic Lodges in Kansas.

I speak today in support of HB2499 *Providing for the Masonic Lodge license plate*. About three-fifths of the states, from Alaska to Alabama and Vermont to Hawai'i have Masonic plate programs currently.

We propose this to help support two broad missions: our newest Grand Lodge charity fund and the restoration and development of the Grand Lodge Library and Museum, which is right down the street on the Statehouse square, and open for any of you to visit any time you'd like.

While Masonry was not designed to be a charity, one of its purposes is to make its members more charitable. The success of that is shown in the variety of charitable efforts by lodges and other affiliated Masonic organizations.

The Grand Lodge library and museum, while an archive of Masonic history in the development of Kansas, also has the potential to chart the more general rise of fraternalism and civic life in the state. By examining our past, we may be able to get some clues as to how we might jumpstart civic capital in the future, in a state where demographic, social and economic changes make it difficult. Organizations should be able to remain true to their core purposes, yet also develop applications to meet the needs in a busier world, but one with people desperately searching more and more for traditional values as well.

Mister Chairman and Honorable Members, thank you for your time and attention to this proposal. I will be happy to answer any questions you have, either now or in the future.

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