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Written Testimony on Partially Automated Truck Platooning
House Committee on Transportation

Prepared by Captain Christopher Turner
Kansas Highway Patrol

February 15, 2018

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee:

My name is Chris Turner, I am the Captain of the Kansas Highway Patrol's Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP). I appear before you on behalf of Kansas Highway Patrol Superintendent, Colonel Mark Bruce and the Patrol. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you. Today, I will provide comments on House Bill 2605.

The Patrol is excited about improvements to highway safety. Truck Platooning has many safety benefits, as well as the potential for tremendous benefits to motor carriers. Truck Platooning can improve carrier fuel economy and lower operating costs, as well as decrease the likelihood of a collision. Driver behavior is the leading cause of motor vehicle crashes. Technology can help eliminate or reduce the risk of human error and driver distraction.

The Patrol supports legislation encouraging platooning. As this Committee moves forward with legislation we believe consideration must be given to the commercial motor vehicle industry and our safety goals. We would like to engage the Kansas Motor Carriers Association, the sponsor of this bill, in a dialog about the impact platooning may have on maintenance and operation. The Patrol also believes consideration should be given to the number of vehicles allowed to platoon, nighttime platooning, as well as whether over dimensional loads should be allowed to platoon.

Thank you for your time today. I will now stand for questions.

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