

February 1, 2017

The Honorable John Barker, Chairperson
House Committee on Federal and State Affairs
Statehouse, Room 285-N
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Barker:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2140 by House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2140 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2140 would authorize the Governor to enter into the Great Plains Interstate Fire Compact. The Compact would promote the effective prevention and control of forest fires in the Great Plains region of the United States by maintaining adequate forest fire fighting services and providing reciprocal aid in fighting forest fires among the states that have ratified the Compact. Each state could formulate and enact a forest fire plan and each member state would be required to assure that workers compensation benefits conform to the legal minimum requirements of the state and are available to all employees and contract firefighters sent to a requesting member state. Other requirements of the Compact are specified in the bill.

Kansas State University (KSU) states there would be no fiscal effect to the Kansas Forest Service. According to KSU, the Compact does not require any membership dues and does not require the maintenance of adequate forest fire fighting services above expenditures currently budgeted. In addition, KSU states participation in an emergency request is voluntary based on resource availability.

The Kansas Department of Labor estimates there could be additional workers compensation cases presented to administrative law judges; however the additional cases could be absorbed within existing resources. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2140 is not reflected in *The FY 2018 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,



Shawn Sullivan,
Director of the Budget

cc: Dan Thimmesch, Health & Environment
Ethan Erickson, Kansas State University
Dawn Palmberg, Department of Labor
Cheri Froetschner, Office of the Adjutant General