



Written testimony before the
Committee on Transportation
Jorge Quinones
Executive Board member Teamsters 696

March 15th 2022

Oppose SENATE BILL 161

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee:

Good morning members of the committee and thank you for your time and service to the people of this great state. First of all I would like to tell you a little bit about myself. My name is Jorge Quinones from Topeka. I'm a service provider or driver for UPS on my 29th year,27 as a full time driver, out of the Topeka center. I am proud to wear my browns and proud to be Teamster like my father and grandfather before me.

I would like to tell you my thoughts on this bill. I feel this bill is a threat to good paying jobs here in Kansas and a threat to my personal economic security. Additionally, there are safety risks that this job has that are not being properly addressed.

I am thankful and blessed to have a job that provides financial security and stability for my family. And securing that stability and maintaining it after my career comes to an end. The last two years our company has seen unprecedented growth in volume, record profits and the creation of jobs. These jobs provide top wages in our industry, health insurance and pensions. This is a good career for anyone and has provided for my family. This bill will put my job at risk and put the possibility of me being replaced by a robot.

And on the issue of safety, this bill will force us and our children to share the sidewalk with large, unmanned drones going 15mph and weighing 800 pounds on sidewalks. This is a disaster waiting to happen. That's twice the weight of a football linebacker going at top run speed. If this technology were to fail and run into someone then it would hurt them.

We ask you to vote no on SB 161. This technology is wrong for us and wrong for Kansas.