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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE**

**REGARDING SENATE BILL 530
RELATING TO THE KANSAS RAIL SAFETY IMPROVEMENT ACT
AND PROVIDING SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR RAILROAD OPERATIONS AND CROSSINGS**

March 17, 2022

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) is providing neutral testimony on Senate Bill (SB) 530. This bill provides for rail crossing safety and other operational safety policy. Safety of the traveling public is of paramount importance to KDOT. The bill would create operational requirements for railroads. It would limit the length of a train to 8,500 feet; it would require railroads to keep at least 300 feet between the near-edge of a railroad crossing and rolling stock stored on sidings; it would require freight trains to have a crew of at least two individuals; it would require that a device warning be located where items exceed a height of four inches, there exists a marked unevenness of the terrain, or a condition exists that endangers any employee; and the bill requires rail carriers to provide walkways adjacent to portions of yard tracks where employees regularly work performing switching services.

In review of the bill KDOT found the language unclear on where authority lies in some cases and in others assigns responsibilities with KDOT where KDOT does not have authority to carry out the prescribed responsibilities.

KDOT looks forward to continuing to work with stakeholders to improve rail crossing safety issues raised in this bill, and clarifying language as to investigation of violations, setting of fines and due process requirements.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide neutral testimony on SB 530.