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STEPHEN OWENS
74TH DISTRICT

Chairman Tarwater
House Committee on Commerce

RE: HB 2826 Amending the Elevator Safety Act

Chairman and Members of the Committee

I stand in support of HB 2826. Below are examples of the egregious use of this law from Newton Fire Marshall Andy Harder:

As we discussed, our community has been experiencing issues with the recent elevator inspection requirement created by the State of Kansas. While I believe some elevator regulations are needed and have helped sort out one issue, the negative impacts have been far greater. I will share a few stories below to highlight the issues we are having.

A local business has a maintenance contract with the elevator company. They received a letter stating they must complete a required safety inspection but that this inspection is not part of the maintenance contract. The inspection cost was \$800 and highlighted several items that would likely be required at additional costs.

A local church was told they had to have the elevator rekeyed after the elevator inspection. The elevator company quoted the church \$3,500 for the service.

A local community building spent hundreds of thousands of dollars replacing elevators with minor issues because the elevator company told them it was required. One elevator was completely replaced. The elevator contractor wanted the pump room to be expanded by one foot. The problem with the expansion was the room being completely concrete. Whether they should have known better does not outweigh the elevator companies throwing their weight around. The common theme I hear is that the Fire Marshal will shut them down if they do not complete the work.

In addition, the Peabody Township Library was charged \$600 for inspecting a chair lift (that only goes 4 steps). These folks receive less than \$300 in state support annually. The examples do not end, but it is time for the Elevator Safety Act to end as we now it.

Respectfully Submitted

Stephen Owens