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**HB 2336 PROPONENT TESTIMONY**  
**TIMOTHY D. RESNER**  
**SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE**  
**March 15, 2023**

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

I am legal counsel to the Metropolitan Topeka Airport Authority (the “MTAA”) and I represent and appear on behalf of the MTAA in support of HB 2336. Thank you for the opportunity to appear today.

The MTAA operates two airports in Shawnee County, Topeka Regional Airport (formerly Forbes Air Force Base) and Phillip Billard Municipal Airport. Both airports have immense untapped potential. Our community leaders have realized this and are taking action on a plan to develop both the airside and non-aviation side of the airports in a manner which will create substantial long-lasting economic development in our area. HB 2336 is an important component of that plan as it will diversify the MTAA’s ability to pursue economic development on a project-by-project basis.

HB 2336 seeks to increase the authority to issue general obligation bonds of certain surplus property airport authorities formed under K.S.A. 27-327 et seq., including the MTAA. The current level of bonding authority was originally set in 1978 and has not been adjusted since that time. HB 2336 modernizes the level of bonding authority with an eye on the exciting opportunities in front of the MTAA, while maintaining in place the mechanism through which the MTAA at a public meeting would adopt a resolution setting forth the principal amounts and purpose for which the bonds would be issued and cause notice of such resolution to be disseminated to the public through the official county newspaper. The resolution addressing the bond issuance would remain subject to a protest petition submitted by 5% of the qualified electors of Shawnee County.

The increase in bonding authority will allow the MTAA, working closely with our community leaders, to implement a meaningful plan of action for our airports. Thank you for your consideration and I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.