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**PROPONENT TESTIMONY BEFORE THE  
SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**REGARDING HOUSE BILL 2522  
RELATING TO LIGHTING EQUIPMENT ON VEHICLES; PERMITTING HIGHWAY  
CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE VEHICLES**

**March 3, 2026**

I am Joel Skelley, Director of Policy for the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT). I am here today to provide testimony on behalf of KDOT in support of House Bill 2522.

KDOT supports legislation to amend or create state laws that further enhance the safety of the traveling public and those that work on our roadways. The agency actively works with our transportation partners to review existing safety initiatives, including through our Drive to Zero Coalition. As part of this coalition there are several stakeholder teams that participate in strategic initiatives to enhance safety on Kansas roadways.

This bill came out of discussions with one of those teams involving our construction partners of the Kansas Contractors Association (KCA). The addition of green lights on construction and maintenance vehicles will help to more clearly identify those vehicles from other vehicles traveling through a construction zone. Many road construction zones have reduced lane widths, require non-traditional lane maneuvers, detours, and possible flagger operations. The potential for any one or combination of these changes in the roadway requires a driver to be fully focused on the task of driving so they can react safely and appropriately. This includes being able to clearly identify a construction vehicle operating in a construction zone that may depart the travel lane onto the shoulder, ditch or into the construction area where traffic is not supposed to follow.

Current law allows for only amber and white lights to be displayed on construction and maintenance vehicles. Amber and white lights can also be displayed by other service vehicles like school buses, trash trucks, and public utility vehicles. The addition of green as an allowable light color to be displayed on construction vehicles will help differentiate them as vehicles working in the construction zone from other service vehicles.

KDOT recognizes that the limited use of blue lights on stationary trailers in construction zones is another component of this bill. There are a few states that utilize blue lights for service purposes other than law enforcement. The agency understands that blue lights are typically reserved for law enforcement vehicles and looks forward to working with our construction and safety partners to keep work zones safe.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 2522. I am happy to answer any questions at the appropriate time.